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THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH 2016

SPRING INTO EASTER AT BARRY HIGH STREET PAGES 22-24

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COWBRIDGE IS READY TO WELCOME THE NEW SEASON! PAGES 28-29

SIX NATIONS BACK PAGE COMMENT ON WALES PAGE 48

52 bags a year, and that's it! Council's new black bag plan

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE new model waste collection service in Bridgend county borough will be two black bags, collected fortnightly. The weekly recycling service will continue.

However, families with children in nappies (or with family members with incontinence issues) need not panic just yet, as the introduction date is more than 12 months away.

By then, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) says that it will have introduced a separate collection service for such absorbent items.

The BCBC cabinet has agreed to develop the proposals following a "comprehensive public consultation" which asked local residents for their thoughts on a range of options designed to boost recycling, and avoid financial penalties for missing strict new targets set by the Welsh Government.

Under the new requirements, the county borough will need to recycle 64 per cent of all waste by 2019-20 and 70 per cent by 2024-25. The current kerbside system aims to recycle 58 per cent.

Coun Hywel Williams, cabinet member for communities, said: "It's important for people to realise that the current kerbside collection arrangements cannot remain in their current format and change is absolutely necessary.

"What we have done is to work with WRAP Cymru on identifying what methods would enable the county borough to hit the new targets, and to ask local people for their views on those proposals.

"At 76 per cent, the vast majority of responses to our public consultation on how waste should be collected in future made it clear that the preferred option is for a two-week, two-bag scheme, so we have listened to what local residents have said."

He said that many respondents to the consultation had asked about wheelie bins.

"The issue of wheelie bins was more problematic.

"While well-liked, the consultation showed that they are popular with younger residents, but not with older people or residents who don't have access to a driveway or garden, or who may live on a steeply-inclined street in one of our valley areas.

"As wheelie bins would also cost more than £2m and limit our options for making further improvements or changes to the service, we are not currently seeking to introduce them at this stage."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

Porthcawl Primary School can now fly (Platinum) Green Flag

ABOVE: Porthcawl Primary School pupils are proud to show off their new Platinum Green Flag.
Photograph by Scenic Gallery

PORTHCAWL Primary School is "very excited" about obtaining the prestigious Platinum Green Flag status as part of Eco-Schools.

The award, in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy, is given to schools and organisations worldwide for for being Eco friendly and 'making a difference' to our planet.

With only approximately 180 schools in the whole of Wales that have gained the Platinum Flag status, pupils, staff and parents of Porthcawl Primary School are very proud of the achievements and dedication that the children have shown in order to make the school Eco-friendly.

Mrs Loveluck (teacher and Eco-School's co-ordinator) stated: "All pupils that have been part of the Eco-Committee over the last 10 years have worked incredibly hard to make this award obtainable.

"They have willingly given up their own time to attend eco meetings and carry out essential work and projects.

"They are a credit to the school and we thank them all, (past and present) for making this award possible."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

STOP PRESS

TOLL charges at the Severn Bridge are to be halved after the Budget.

However, the changes will not come in until 2018. Vale MP Alun Cairns said that the cut would be much bigger for small trade vans, from £13.20 down to around £3.

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Hymns and arias on the business breakfast agenda!

Laura Davies of Chwarae Teg, Chair of Bridgend Business Forum Ian Jessop, guest speaker Helen Molyneux, council Leader Coun Mel Nott and Katie Cole of Chwarae Teg.

OVER 80 guests attended Bridgend Business Forum's annual St David's Day Business Breakfast at the Coed Y Mwstwr Hotel, where they enjoyed Welsh hymns from Vocelle ladies choir and a motivational and inspiring speech from Welsh businesswomen and entrepreneur – Helen Molyneux.

Helen, founder and chief executive officer of NewLaw Solicitors, told how she grew NewLaw from a start-up in 2004 to currently employing 470 people nationally.

Recent achievements include being named 'Legal Business Woman of the Year' at The Law Society Excellence Awards 2013 and being awarded an honorary doctorate for her contribution to legal services in Wales last year by the University of South Wales.

The audience was welcomed by new Chair of Bridgend Business Forum and managing director at kkSolutions, Ian Jessopp. He said: "St David's Day is traditionally about celebrating all that is good about Wales and today, we are celebrating the success of Welsh business.

"As we look to develop and grow our businesses, it's great to hear the inspirational stories of successful entrepreneurs, such as Helen Molyneux."

Talking about Bridgend Business Forum's growth since being established eight years ago, Ian added: "I'm proud to witness its success, year on year – with membership reaching the 675 mark and more than 1,800 delegates attending business forum events annually."

BCBC Leader, Coun Mel Nott, said: "We'd like to thank everyone who attended the St David's Day business breakfast to celebrate local enterprise in Bridgend county borough. We'd particularly like to recognise Chwarae Teg who supported the event, Vocelle ladies choir for their great performance and Helen Molyneaux for an interesting and inspirational speech.

WELSH CAKES AND A TOUCH OF KURLING!

THE president of Coychurch WI, Sandra Davidson, welcomed everyone to the St David's Day meeting and conducted the business of the meeting.

A coffee morning is planned for May 5 to be held in the Williams Memorial Hall with cream scones and jam, tea, coffee and various stalls including 'Fashions from Sian'. Tickets now available £3.50; everyone welcome.

The monthly newsletter was perused and then members enjoyed a variety of Welsh cakes with their tea/coffee.

Details of a fabulous day out for Chepstow Race Day on July 14.

The knitting for charity group date and time to be finalised.

Kurling referee Val Moore organised eight teams each with four players for a fun knockout competition – not taken too seriously by the participants! There was a great atmosphere with much laughter and shouts of encouragement to the players.

The winning team members were Delma Coombes, Sandra Davidson, Jean Jakeaway and Sandra Lazarus.

We meet on the first Tuesday each month (excluding August) at 7.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall, Coychurch; interesting guest speakers and activities are organised for 2016.

For further information on events please contact Sandra on 01656 669232.

JANET JAMES

Help save the forests

I WOULD like to ask readers to help save one of the UK's most endangered forests and its rare wildlife by supporting Trees for Life in an easy and free online vote before March 22.

Our Rewilding the Highlands project has been shortlisted for the prestigious European Outdoor Conservation Association's funding awards, with more than £22,000 at stake.

Winning the online vote would allow us to expand our pioneering work to restore the Caledonian Forest in the Highlands – including by planting 50,000 trees, establishing habitats for wildlife such as red squirrels, black grouse and Scottish wildcats, and creating conservation opportunities for many people.

Please make a difference and vote at www.treesforlife.org.uk/voteTFL.

Alan Watson Featherstone, Founder, Trees for Life, Moray.

Cycle track query

I SEE good progress is being made of the cycle track between Coychurch and Pencoed, but will this track be used by lycra-clad cyclists with wrap-around shades, or will they be exempt?

Lyn Howells, Coychurch.

FREE FUN AT EASTER

BRIDGEND Communities First is organising free family play schemes, workshops and activities over Easter.

From March 29 to April 1, there are free children's Mini Play4Life play schemes in Betws Primary School from 1.30pm–3pm and Sarn Lifelong Learning Centre from 10.30am–12 noon for children aged three to seven, including arts and crafts, dance and sport activities.

A free outdoor play session organised in partnership with Groundwork Wales, will be in Dimbath Avenue in Blackmill, March 30-31, from 10am to 12 noon for those aged 0–18 and there will be Organised Kaos at Penybont Football Club on March 29 from 12.30pm–3pm, and Brackla Community Centre, April 8 from 10am–12pm.

Healthy cooking workshops feature at Nolton Church Hall, Bridgend, March 30 from 12.30pm–2.30pm, and Wildmill Community Centre, April 7 from 12.30pm–2.30pm.

From 10am–12.30pm, craft sessions are in Evanstown Community Centre, March 29; Bettws Life Centre, March 30; Blackmill Youth and Community Centre, March 31 and Ynysawdre Community Centre, April 1.

Easter family craft sessions are also available at Kenfig National Nature Reserve, March 30 from 11am–2pm; Wildmill Community Centre, March 31 from 12.30pm–2.30pm; Nolton Church in Bridgend, April 6 from 12.30pm–2.30pm; Cornelly and District Development Trust, March 31 from 10am–12.30pm and April 6 from 10am–1.30pm.

Move forward

MAD Science is at Brackla Community Centre, 1 April 1 from 10am–12pm and Pen-Y-Bont Football Club, April 5 from 12.30pm–2.30pm.

Win a prize for the best teddy at Bridgend Communities First's free teddy bear's picnic at Café Mi-Mi's Play Café in Maesteg, April 6 from 12pm–3pm.

For more details of Bridgend Communities First's Easter activities visit commfirstbridgend.co.uk or call 01656 643514.

Chapel's charity coffee morning

NOTTAGE General Baptist and Unitarian Chapel holds a regular charity coffee morning from 11am until 1pm on the second and fourth Friday of each month at the Old School Room, Ty Canol, Nottage.

Minister, Rev Lewis Rees said: "The congregation has always been enthusiastic in its support of good causes, especially the Margaret Barr Hospital in the Khasi Hills of India, the Swansea Bay Asylum Seekers Support Group and the annual Macmillan Cancer Care appeal. However, we believe that we should live our faith more fully by helping as many people as possible.

Therefore, we have a quarterly appeal for the local foodbank, we support the 'Crisis at Christmas' charity, and we have recently begun providing practical and financial help, as well as helping raise awareness of a Cardiff based charity named BAWSO that supports victims of domestic abuse, human trafficking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation in the minority ethnic communities."

Contact Rev Lewis Rees at nottage.minister@gmail.com or telephone: 07984 651888. Alternatively, the chapel can be found on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/Nottage-General-Baptist-Unitarian-Chapel-829876533769042/?ref=tn_tmmn.

Soroptimists celebrate International Women's Day

Barbara Wilding CBE with Soroptimist Anne Morgan and President Elect Sue Davies.

BRIDGEND Soroptimist Club celebrated International Women's Day by holding an afternoon tea at The Heronston Hotel, Bridgend.

Members and guests enjoyed refreshments and friendship and guest speaker Barbara Wilding CBE spoke of her years in the police force and the ground breaking changes she had seen with regard to a woman's place at all levels of seniority with the police.

Although now retired, she detailed her current activities which included involvement with distribution of funding from the National Lottery, together with her appointment as chair of governors with UWIC. In 2010, she became High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan. A very busy lady and, everyone agreed, most aspirational indeed.

EILEEN BAYLEY

PACT meetings

***MORFA WILDMILL PACT** at The Community Life Centre, The Precinct, Wildmill on Thursday, March 17 at 2pm.*

***FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYSG (PENCOED) and COYCHURCH PACT** at Miners Welfare Hall, Pencoed, on Monday, March 21 at 2pm.*

***OLDCASTLE PACT** at the Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on Wednesday, March 30 at 6.30pm.*

***PORTHCAWL WEST CENTRAL PACT** at Trinity Church (Room 5) on Tuesday, March 29 at 7pm.*

***LITCHARD, PENDRE and COITY PACT** public meeting will be held at Litchard Mission, Litchard on Thursday, March 31 at 4.30pm.*

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
17 Thur	00.33	8.0	13.21	7.9
18 Fri	01.57	7.9	14.44	7.7
19 Sat	03.27	8.1	15.54	8.2
20 Sun	04.27	8.6	16.55	8.7
21 Mon	05.14	9.1	17.36	9.2
22 Tues	05.55	9.4	18.14	9.4
23 Wed	06.29	9.6	18.47	9.6
24 Thur	07.02	9.7	19.19	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP.

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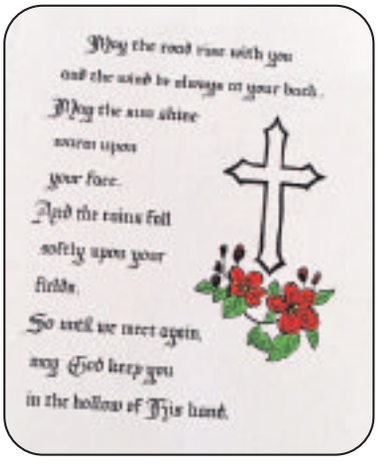
Janet is 100 not out as she celebrates birthday!

Janet Gibbon with the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun David Newton-Williams.

Left to right: Fr Jonathan Durley (parish priest, 2007-2010); Canon Philip Masson, Fr Neil Roper.



by PHILIP IRWIN

THERE was a fantastic turnout of family, friends and well-wishers last week, when Mrs Janet Gibbon of Porthcawl celebrated her 100th birthday.

In fact, the celebrations were spread over three days. Thursday, March 10 was Janet's actual birthday, and it was open house at home, as she waited for that special accolade, her birthday card from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

There was also a card from Wales' First Minister Carwyn Jones, and another from Iain Duncan Smith MP, in his capacity as Work and Pensions Minister.

Plenty of effort went into that day, but her family, daughter Gloria Larner, and grandchildren Tim Larner, Stephanie Perrin, and Lauri Bickerstaff, invited more than 100 friends to The Grove Golf Club on the Saturday, for a lunch timed to finish just before Wales played England at Twickenham.

There was a birthday cake on Thursday, and another on Saturday,

Janet's ties with Porthcawl go back many years, back to when she and her husband Gwyn left Aberdare to settle in the town. They were married for almost 60 years, until Gwyn's sad death.

Older residents may remember Janet from her days in Gladys Laviers, the dress shop on Wellfield Road.

Doing alterations to women's and men's clothing is a skill that Janet has never lost.

In fact, one guest at The Grove, Fr Neil Roper, who was in the Newton Nottage parish between 1999 and 2002, said that she would tailor his jackets for him during that time.

Almost all Janet's family, including three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, still live locally, so it was a full house at the Grove on Saturday.

However, Janet was particularly thrilled to welcome three parish priests, as the church has always played a huge role in her life.

Canon Philip Masson said: "As long as I have known Janet, she has baked Welsh cakes during the week, and then sold them on a Sunday to raise funds for church projects.

"All in all, she has raised more than £1,000 through her Welsh cakes alone!"

Apart from dress-making, Janet has always been keen on tending her garden, and also has given demonstrations in flower arrangement.

Another skill is in calligraphy, and Janet has used that ability to transcribe a large number of hymns and poems.

Her fondness for the church has never lessened, and Janet had one firm request for her 100th birthday celebrations.

No presents, just a donation to two causes that are dear to her heart – the Alzheimer's Society, and the latest conservation project at St John's Church, Newton.

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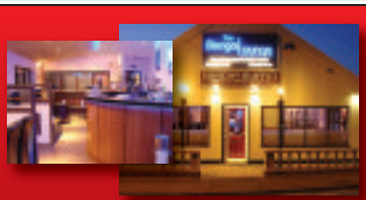

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PICTURED (left to right): David Watkins (Visibly Better co-ordinator for RNIB Cymru), Ceri Jackson (RNIB Cymru Director), Stephen Cook, Chief Executive of Valleys to Coast, Carwyn Jones AM and Jo Lawson (Independent Living Manager, RNIB Cymru). Picture by Elin Edwards.

RNIB present Visibly Better award for Valleys to Coast

TWO weeks ago, Bridgend AM and First Minister Carwyn Jones celebrated the achievement of Valleys to Coast in gaining the RNIB Visibly Better Platinum award for its Llys Ton Extra Care facility in Kenfig Hill, the highest level of accreditation the RNIB can award.

To earn the award, Valleys to Coast provide large print documentation where needed for its tenants, promote good eye health, work with the local authority sensory team to identify need for improved lighting and each flat has different coloured front doors and matching exterior décor.

The facility has on site staff, a lift, a lounge, a laundry, a garden, a conservatory, a hairdressing salon and an IT suite. There is a large dining room where residents can have their meals.

There are also circulation spaces capable of accommodating electric scooters, mobility aids and buggies, making movement throughout the facility easier, secure and safe.

Mr Jones said: "I would like to congratulate Valleys to Coast on their award. It is not an easy task to achieve the platinum award and is a great testament to the staff for their continuing efforts and commitment to ensure that Llys Ton is fully accessible to people with sight loss and to ensure that their tenants live in the best possible environment".

Chief Executive of Valleys to Coast, Stephen Cook, said: "It is a real honour to receive this award. It is a testament to the hard-work and passion of V2C colleagues and our partners at Reach and BCBC and the shared commitment they have to make a real difference to people's lives".

Ceri Jackson, Director RNIB Cymru, said: "Our Visibly Better awards make a huge difference to the lives of tenants. Often the changes are very simple but lead to a reduction in falls and accidents.

"Although the standards are aimed at improving accessibility for people with sight loss, they will benefit a wide range of tenants including people with dementia or mobility problems.

"We know that one in five people aged 75 and over are living with sight loss, and that sight loss is set to double in the next 25 years. I congratulate Valleys to Coast for achieving the highest level, a platinum award, helping to make every day better for people with sight loss."

RNLI TAKE OVER BEACH WATCH IN PORTHCAWL

THIS summer, four of Porthcawl's beaches will be patrolled by a new seasonal lifeguard service run in partnership by BCBC and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

For many years, the council has employed lifeguards at Coney Beach, Rest Bay, Trecco Bay and Pink Bay to help create a safe environment for local residents and tourists to enjoy the beaches.

"That same high standard of service is to continue through the new partnership, which has been approved by cabinet members from the local authority and the beach landowners," a spokesman said.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for adult social care, health and wellbeing, said: "The RNLI already patrol over 220 beaches across the UK, and we look forward to working with them. Beach lifeguards provide an invaluable service, keeping beachgoers safe by spotting danger and saving lives. It will take on the recruitment, training and overall management of the lifeguards. Last summer, they conducted full risk assessments of the four beaches to work out what staffing will be required, so they'll be ready to go for the season.

"I'd also like to add that we have a strong tradition of working with the community surf lifesaving clubs in Porthcawl to support beach and water safety. We are keen to maintain and develop these good relationships further."

RNLI lifeguards will begin providing a daily safety service on Coney Beach and Trecco Bay from April 30. At Rest Bay, lifeguards will begin duty on May 28 and at Pink Bay from July 2. Lifeguards will be on duty seven days a week between 10am and 6pm at Coney Beach, Rest Bay and Pink Bay until September 4 and and Trecco Bay until September 25.

Stu Thompson, RNLI Lifeguard Manager, said: "Last year, our lifeguards assisted more than 900 people on 32 beaches in Wales and we are really pleased to begin working with BCBC to provide a safety service on the beaches of Porthcawl this year. The RNLI charity provides all of its lifeguards with first class training to equip them with all the skills and experience needed to provide safety advice and assistance to beach users. We would advise people to always swim at a lifeguarded beach within the red and yellow flagged swimming area.

"We have met a range of individuals and groups in the community with an interest in coastal safety, and will be working with them towards reducing incidents and preventing loss of life in the Bridgend County Borough area. The RNLI is especially keen to enhance the close relationship with the area's surf lifesaving clubs, and our lifeguards will also be able to work closely with the charity's volunteer crew at Porthcawl RNLI lifeboat station."

He added that recruitment for RNLI lifeguards has already begun and the charity would be keen to hear from anyone interested in applying for Bridgend's 'best summer job': "The RNLI will be looking to recruit an enthusiastic and professional team of lifeguards who will get paid and equipped to save lives this summer.

"We're looking for strong swimmers who can swim 400m with a good level of fitness, aged over 16 years old. If you have the raw ability and the will to learn, we can help get you fit and qualified."

RNLI beach lifeguard recruitment is now open at jobs.rnli.org/lifeguards.html .

Questions for the candidates

THE charity Sustainable Wales is organising an election Question Time in Y Centre, YMCA, 25 John St, Porthcawl from 7pm – 9.30pm Friday, April 15 and is looking for questions to be sent beforehand to the charity.

A spokesperson explained: "Questions on urgent local issues are particularly welcome. These might include climate change, fracking and fuel poverty.

"But we feel the coming referendum on EU membership is almost certain to arise.

"Questions about local car parking will not be asked on the night.

"Questions must be self-explanatory and straightforward. They should be emailed to robert.minhinnick@sustainablewales.org.uk by Wednesday, April 13.

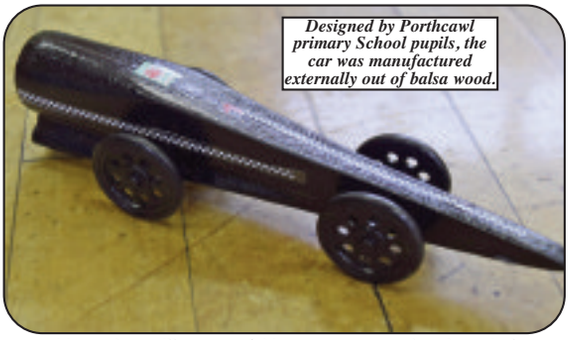
"They should include the questioner's name and address. Chairman on the night, Richard Thomas, will consider their suitability."

The candidates in the Bridgend constituency have been invited to take part.

Engineering whiz-kids' model F1 success!

The Porthcawl Primary School formula one challenge whizzkids: (back row left to right): Erin Watkin, Chantal Martinez and Ffion Price.
(front row left to right): Grace Baker, Tegan McGlynn and Zane Aldridge-Mclean.

AFTER designing their own model car, young Porthcawl whizz-kids beat off competition from 24 other schools to top the south Wales podium in this year's 'Formula 1 in Schools – Jaguar Primary School Challenge'.



Designed by Porthcawl primary School pupils, the car was manufactured externally out of balsa wood.

The 'Porthcawl Power' team of six pupils were praised for their design work which helped to create the competition's fastest car by some margin. The car, made from balsa wood, was designed using computer aided design software operated by the pupils. When it was propelled using an air canister at the south Wales schools' competition in Swansea, the super-lightweight car zoomed along a 30 metre track in less than a second, clocking up a speed of up to 85mph!

The budding engineers will now hope to take pole position in the UK final which will be held in Coventry in June. Also joining Porthcawl Primary School to represent Wales will be Caedraw Primary School from Merthyr Tydfil.

Evan Richards, Porthcawl Primary School's Deputy Headteacher said: "The pupils are thoroughly enjoying being part of this amazing competition and we will be working even harder on our entry for the national final. We'd also like to thank our sponsors Willmott Dixon, Autobarnes and Synter BMW for their support in achieving this success."

Congratulating the school, Coun Huw David, BCBC's Deputy Leader, said: "With the Ford Engine Plant playing such a key role in the local economy, and Aston Martin's investment in a new super-car plant just up the road in St Athan, it is clear that there has never been a better time for local children to take an interest in the science, technology, engineering and maths skills that are so critical in the automotive industry.

"The Porthcawl Primary pupils have shown a real aptitude for engineering and I'd like to wish them the best of luck for the next stage of this competition when they represent Wales in the national final."

In addition to Porthcawl Primary School's success, there were also awards at the south Wales schools' competition for Coety Primary School having the best team image, while Mynydd Cynffig Primary School won the award for best car manufacture.

Bob Cater of the Engineering Education Scheme Wales said: "Formula 1 in schools had been an innovative way to interest primary age range pupils to become the engineers of tomorrow. We aim to enlighten young people about the challenges and opportunities presented by science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) areas through high quality activities involving schools and industry. Our aim is to show that STEM areas are diverse and stimulating, and can provide an intellectually challenging career."

Les Ratcliffe, Jaguar Land Rover Head of Community Relations said: "This competition engages with primary schools students and teachers across the UK. The challenge is open to students aged 5-11 years old and involves designing and manufacturing the fastest car possible emulating the design and engineering processes employed by real engineering companies such as Jaguar Cars."

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TWO IN HARMONY!

Choirs combine for local charity concert

A LOCAL charity, St John's Trust, benefited from a wonderful weekend concert at a full St Mary's Catholic Church.

The concert, hosted by Bridgend Male Choir also featured Pontyclun-based ladies' choir, Vocelle and the children's choir of Oldcastle Primary School.

The male choir, attired in black dinner suits with red bow tie and daffodil, sang items associated with St David's Day; content from its recent visit to the Principality Stadium and linked in with the England v Wales Six Nations match.

'Men of Harlech' set the tone, together with 'Rachie', a favourite in Cardiff on match days. Musical director Rhiannon Williams-Hale's arrangement of 'National Glory', a medley of songs from each of the Six Nations' teams was particularly well received. Rhiannon was very ably supported on piano by Stephanie Bailey.

Meryn Williams, musical director of the ladies' choir brought an enthusiastic group of ladies, opening with the lively 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy' and building an impressive first half choice, ending with John Rutter's 'Gaelic Blessing'. The excellent harmony of the ladies was evident from the beginning.

Tucked in between the senior choirs were the school youngsters, smartly attired in new red tops. Their smart dress was matched by their equally smart performance and good diction. The children's programme included 'Dewi Sant' and the traditional 'Migildi Magildi', a most popular inclusion.

The youngsters' highlight however was the singing of 'Naughty' from Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. The finger/ thumb clicking and end item animation helped earn a standing ovation.

Enjoying their appearance, the schoolchildren joined the men to sing 'Sospan Fach', one exclaiming that she had never seen so many James Bonds! Music teachers Ros Harris and Charlotte Boughton can be proud of their charges.

Bridgend Male Choir continued the 'Welsh' influence, starting the second period with 'Calon Lan', 'Yma O Hyd' and James Hearn's 'Rhys', the latter an opportunity for baritones to strut their stuff! The ladies returned with more of their repertoire content, including the author's favourite, Kirby Shaw's 'Let the River Run'. How can simple "aahs" sound so musical?

With the singers' high energy, harmonies and light and shade, their whole performance excelled. Accompanist Guillaume Mathias' skills fitted seamlessly with the voices.

The accomplished BMC ended the programme with items from its new CD, *How to Handle a Woman*, with narrator, Peter K Morgan. 'This is the Moment' from *Jekyll & Hyde* and the Geraint Roberts' arranged 'Amen'. Before the traditional anthem, the gents and ladies came together with 'Tydi a Roddaist', raising the roof and earning another standing ovation. Thanks to everyone for a wonderful evening's music.

SKER LADIES ARE TOLD OF A FASCINATING LIFE

ON March 10, Sker WI president Nora Williams welcomed 53 members and two visitors to the branch meeting, when themain focus was resolutions to be taken forward to the NFWI AGM.

Members were asked to consider two resolutions: the provision of better facilities for the carers of people diagnosed with dementia during hospital admissions; and the reduction of food waste by encouraging supermarkets to co-operate with charities and pass on food that has reached 'best before' or 'sell by' dates for sale in food banks or used to help homeless people.

Welfare officer, Wendy Williams, outlined the pros and cons of the two resolutions and after some discussion, members voted in favour of the first option. However, it was decided to request a change of wording for the resolution and Nora Williams will put it to the AGM that the resolution should read: "Funding is needed to provide a more highly skilled workforce in the field of dementia care."

This month's speaker was Mr Dean Powell. His topic was the life and times of the actor Glyn Houston.

Mr Powell had started his own career as a staff reporter with the Western Mail some 20 years ago. He worked with Glyn to write his autobiography *Glyn Houston – A Black and White Actor,* published in 2009.

A Black and White Actor tells of Glyn's life from losing his mother as a child, to running his grandmother's milk round in Tonypandy, culminating in him becoming one of Britain's most distinguished actors, who appeared in more than 100 films and countless theatre productions.

Members were enthralled as Mr Powell told of Glyn's path to stardom. He told us of how Glyn had 'joined up' and entertained war time troops in India and Burma as part of an ENSA concert party. Interestingly, one of his fellow artistes was Jimmy Perry who went on to write the popular televisions series *It Ain't 'Arf Hot, Mum,* based on the escapades of an ENSA concert party entertaining the troops in wartime India and Burma!

During a career that has spanned over 70 years, Glyn has rubbed shoulders with many of the stars of stage and screen. Glyn's brother, Donald Houston, was a star in his own right but Glyn also made a name for himself starring alongside stars including Norman Wisdom, Clark Gable, Alan Ladd and Joan Collins.

However, it was through the medium of television that Glyn became a household name. He starred in popular TV programmes such as *Z Cars, Softly, Softly, Dixon of Dock Green* and *Are You Being Served*? Glyn continues to work, although today he concentrates on voiceovers and commercials.

Glyn married his wife Shirley 62 years ago and has two daughters and three granddaughters. He was awarded a Best Actor Award at the Monte Carlo Film Festival in 1991 and awarded a Lifetime Achievement Awards by Bafta Cymru in 2008.

Mr Powell ended his presentation by telling members that when he asked Glyn what he would like to be used as his epitaph he said "I could have done better".

Everyone who were absolutely enthralled by Mr Powell's presentation all agreed that Glyn Houston was being very hard on himself, as he had actually done very well indeed!

Kate Owen gave the vote of thanks, and echoed the thoughts of the meeting when she thanked him for an utterly absorbing and entertaining presentation.

This month's competition colour was blue. First place went to Brenda Mahoney, second place went to Marion Millis and in third place was Claire John.

Former president Nina Charleswoth thanked the group for the bouquet and best wishes sent in celebration of her 60th wedding anniversary.

Our next meeting will be held in St David's Church Hall, Nottage Village at 7pm on Thursday, April 14. Visitors are always welcome, so why don't you call in and say hello?

CHRISTINE BEYNON

Rock 'n' roll at the WI!

PENTA Pen-y-Bont WI's year of hosting the link (Coity, Coychurch, Ogmore Vale, and Pencoed) is over and a round of applause (and many pats on the back) are due to our president Val Williams, who came up with the ideas and then organised the three events.

Last summer at Pencoed Rugby Club, we had a 50s/60s tea. Dress was 50s/60s style and 50s/60s music was played by Porthcawl Ukulele Band, good sandwiches and cake, well known songs to sing along to and some rock and roll dancing.

December was the carol concert at St David's Church, Pencoed, and again this was well supported.

For the last event, in March, it was back to the rugby club for a black and white evening with dress code, table settings and even the raffle in black and white.

Entertainment was provided by the Mid Glamorgan Mixed Choir, who were also dressed in black. They sang a selection of songs from the shows and other popular ones. Members also enjoyed a two-course meal prepared by the rugby club. It was a lovely evening, with 90 members attending.

Go to the **Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news

There's lots more online....

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DisabledGo GUIDE LEADS THE WAY!

BAVO, ELC and DisabledGo at launch of guide at Every Link Counts, Maesteg.

THE Western Bay health and social care programme has led the way in Wales, by launching its first accessibility DisabledGo.

Residents and visitors across Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot now have their own access guide, which provides detailed accessibility information to 350 venues.

It guide covers leisure centres, libraries, restaurants, community centres, council buildings and shops which have been visited and assessed by a DisabledGo surveyor or a local surveyor from Every Link Counts, who have looked at a whole range of accessibility features from parking to accessible toilets. The Western Bay venues will join 125,000 other venues across the UK that already feature on DisabledGo.

You can find the guide at www.disabledgo.com.

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FREE legal clinics

Visit a FREE, no obligation, drop in session to discuss whether you are eligible for compensation.

Katie McCraith will be in your local area to talk about:

- Medical negligence claims including missed fractures, birth injuries, cerebral palsy, mis-diagnosis and surgical complications.
- Workplace injuries including factory, construction, falling from height and fatal accidents.
- Industrial illness including asbestos exposure, mesothelioma, lung cancer, respiratory disease and deafness.

Bridgend
21 March 2016 - 10am to 4pm
Brackla Community Centre, 1 Whitehorn Drive, CF31 2PQ

No appointment is necessary. If you are unable to attend, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits.

Contact: Katie McCraith on 01656 838 543
- katie.mccraith@hughjames.com
- hughjames.com/medneg

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Who wants to build what, and where, in Bridgend?

Mrs Catherine Harris – **44 Dol Nant Dderwen, Broadlands, Bridgend** – Felling of conifer/Corsican pine (T1) and evergreen oak/holm oak (T2).
Miss Kirstie Jones – **95 Turberville Street, Garth, Maesteg** – Two storey/single storey additions to rear elevation.
Tondu IV Ltd – **Land southwest of Maesteg Road, Tondu** – Approval of details for condition 10 of P/15/747/RLX.
Mr and Mrs Andrew Saines – **7 De Breos Drive, Porthcawl** – Single storey rear extension with lantern roof light and internal modifications.
Mrs Emma Stephens-David – **99 Picton Street, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg** – Open a fish and chip shop.
Elaine Garfield – **5 Trem y Mor, Brackla** – Approval of details for condition 3 of P/15/360/FUL.
Mr P Howells – **12 Tythegston Close, Porthcawl** – Proposed single and two storey extension.
Mrs Sarah Walker – **Unit 8, Bank Buildings, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – Change of use to a chiropractic centre.
Mr Julian Davies – **Ty Newydd, Minffrwd Road, Pencoed** – Non-material amendment to P/15/443/FUL – reduce the width of the garage.
Mrs Samantha Rees – **55 Elm Crescent, Bryntirion, Bridgend** – Alterations and extension to property for disabled person.
Ms Hannah Langford – **44 Hafod Las, Pencoed, Bridgend** – Conversion of roof space to provide living accommodation and new dormer structures to front and rear.
Valleys To Coast – **FMR RC Social Club and 23A Bethania Street, Maesteg** – Non-material amendment to P/14/780/FUL – external staircase to the west of the block of flats.
Pin-it Pastry Ltd – **Pin-it Pastry Ltd, Abergarw Industrial Estate, Brynmenyn** – Approval of details for condition 2 of P/15/137/FUL.
Mr Gareth Morgan – **54 Redlands Close, Pencoed** – Two storey extension to side.
Mrs Pamela Price – **42 Esplanade Avenue, Porthcawl** – Conversion of large family home (formerly a care home) into three self-contained flats.
Mrs Jenkins – **131 Merlin Crescent, Cefn Glas, Bridgend** – Construction of dormer roof extensions to the front and rear elevations.
Cornerstone Construction Ltd – **Land adjacent to 13 Heol Tree Dwr, Waterton, Bridgend** – Proposed detached dwelling.
Ling Cymru Housing Ltd – **Madoc Close, Brackla** – Non-material amendment to P/14/618/FUL – reposition blocks 1 – 4 and 5 – 8, new bin stores and other works.
Mr Ben Siddall – **11 South Place, Porthcawl** – Single storey extension to the rear of the property.
Mr and Mrs N Evans – **36 Ffordd Sanderling, Nottage, Porthcawl** – Extend and re-orientate dwelling including partial demolition to provide additional accommodation and sea views.
ABA Holdings Ltd – **Jennings Buildings, Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl** – Approval of details for condition 25 of P/15/609/FUL.
Porthcawl Counselling Service – **Ty Elis, 14 Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl** – Erection of a two-storey extension to the rear together with dormer extension on rear roof of main building.

Refurbished slipway opens up the beach at Southerndown

VISITORS to Dunraven Bay, Southerndown, can now access the beach more easily thanks to a newly refurbished slipway.

Over time, the slipway had been eroded by the sea and became desperately in need of repair. Using funding awarded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council last year by the Coastal Communities Fund, it has now been rebuilt and once again allows all visitors to access the beach.

The improvements also mean beach wheelchairs will soon be available for hire at the site, free of charge, a council spokesman said.

The slipway work is one of a series of projects being undertaken along the Heritage Coast thanks to the funding, which was awarded to help boost the economic potential of the area.

In addition, five new storage units, created to encourage local businesses and beach activity providers to use the coast as a base, will soon be available to hire and are situated adjacent to the Heritage Coast Centre.

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Update from the Townswomen's Guild

SINCE my last report, Porthcawl Townswomen's guild have celebrated our 62nd birthday with a luncheon at the Grove Golf Club, followed by a presentation of photography from Mr Brian Haberfield.

All our groups have been meeting as usual, the craft, games and literary, and the committee has been busy organising future events and outings.

At the beginning of our March meeting, members stood in memory of two members who had died – Bella Keogh and Beryl Davies, who was a long time committee member and secretary and worked hard for the Guild. They will both be missed.

At our AGM, we had a short talk from Paula Hall telling us of the work of the Bridgend Carers' Centre. We have a new vice-chairman this year in Diana Richardson and a new president in Anne Barrett.

Reports were given of our activities over the past year; 12 members attended the federation AGM in Cardiff when we were proud to have one of our members, Beryl Jones, chosen as federation vice-president.

Our next meeting is on April 13, 2pm, in All Saints Church Hall, when Mr. Alan Badmington will be making a welcome return to ask us, "How Old Are You?"

DOROTHY THOMAS

'Team Jeff' get grubby as they tackle 'Invincible Run' for Tanya's causes

'Team Jeff' at the starting line.

Tanya Floyd with her three children Joseff, Elis and Finley.

ABOVE: Mark Floyd (left) and brother Paul.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

by PHILIP IRWIN

FAMILY members who are raising money as a personal memorial to Tanya Floyd, the Cowbridge teacher who died suddenly last year, have just tackled their toughest test.

Tanya's husband, Mark, her two brothers, Paul and John, and her brother-in-law, Paul, took part in the '10K Invincible Run' in Margam Park recently, and as these photos by Glyn Evans show, it was no stroll in the sunshine.

The run includes a series of obstacles, many of them very muddy indeed, and the group, running under the team name of 'Team Jeff' made it around the 10K test and crossed the line together.

Tanya died suddenly last October, and two communities were devastated. She taught at Undy Primary School in Caldicot, but also spent time at Y Bont Faen Primary in Cowbridge, supporting the school that her three sons attended.

Tanya's father, Peter Clinton, told The GEM: "They came up with the name 'Team Jeff' for her three sons, Joseff, Elis and Finley Floyd.

"The team shirts were supplied by Y Bont, the children's centre in Bridgend, a charity that Tanya had raised money for."

Now, the fundraising team have two causes in their sights – Y Bont, and also to support the fundraising efforts of Y Bont Faen Primary, where it is planned to installed a running track in Tanya's memory.

The school recently received a grant from Tesco, and further fundraising is planned.

Peter Clinton said: "Team Jeff finished the Invincible Run in about 90 minutes. One or two of the team found it really tough but they stayed together to get round.

"Tanya's boys found it hilarious, watching their Dad and his friends getting tired and muddy.

"I'm thrilled to say that they have raised £3,065 so far for Y Bont."

Mr Clinton added that Team Jeff will be out again on July 2, taking part in the Pembrey Invincible.

Also, later in the year it is the 'Pretty Muddy' a similar run for women, and one that Tanya took part in last year.

Female friends and family will be getting just as muddy. Peter Clinton added: "There should be plenty of runners representing Team Jeff in that event, and some of the women have never lined up for anything like it before."

Total fundraising since Tanya's tragic death has now passed £14,000. Donations can be made at *http://www.justgiving.com/teams/tanyafloyd*

PORTHCAWL ART SOCIETY

THIS is the 50th anniversary of Porthcawl Art Society, and this year they are starting with a spring exhibition on March 26, Easter Saturday.

Spring bank holiday (May 2) they will be painting in the grounds of Dyffryn House. Three more exhibitions will be shown at Porthcawl throughout the year, and an exhibition will be at the Senedd from September 11 – 18.

The society meets on Wednesdays 1.30pm – 3.30pm in the old police station, John's Street; if interested, come along for a chat.

Bridgend Rotary celebrates its international evening

MARCH is the Rotary International's official designated Water and Sanitation Month – or as we in the Bridgend club like to refer to it – our international month!

It is tradition within our club to hold our international dinner near the date of our patron saint's day, March 1, a day when we reflect on the international service of our club.

By combining skills and resources with rotary clubs throughout the world, aim to make a real contribution to the lives of others.

As Rotary is present in some 200 countries, we are unique in being able to reach people in need all over the world – from running life-changing projects in developing countries, making an immediate response to disaster-hit regions, and supporting projects and charities.

Members of the Interact Club from Pencoed were present with students from Atlantic College – Josephine, Switzerland and Czech Republic; Amirah Wan Usamah, Malaysia; Sundas Khan, Pakistan and Francisco, Argentina. The raffle raised £85 towards international projects. Credit goes to Judy McCarthy and her team.

WM

PORTHCAWL KRUF PRESENTS KIDNEY WALES WITH £2,500

ON Friday, March 11, Porthcawl KRUF held a silent auction in the Bowls Club, Porthcawl, with lively bidding and keen competition from the guests.

The committee provided a buffet and entertainment by Ivor Williams, who had everyone singing along with him!

During the evening, Jean Schofield presented Nick from Kidney Wales with a cheque for £2,500 towards the salary of a social worker in the children's dialysis unit at Cardiff.

During the year, KRUF has also given £3,000 to Morriston Hospital for bedside tables for the dialysis unit, raised through events well supported by friends in Porthcawl and surrounding areas.

The next event will be the walk for life on Sunday, April 17 – register at the Seagull Inn at 10.30am. All enquiries to Jean Schofield on 01656 786669.

On May 12 from 10.30am to 12pm, there will be a coffee morning at the RAFA club on Station Hill with stalls and raffle.

Once again, KRUF would like to thank all its supporters for helping to raise funds to continue the fight against kidney disease that devastates so many lives.

JF

Jean Schofield presents the cheque from KRUF.

Easter recycling & waste collections

Please note that recycling and waste collections will be as normal on Good Friday, but there won't be any collections on Monday 27 March so collections will be one day later than usual for the remainder of that week up until Saturday 2 April.

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND County Borough Council

Casgliadau ailgylchu a gwastraff dros y Pasg

Sylwch y bydd casgliadau ailgylchu a gwastraff yn digwydd fel arfer ar ddydd Gwener y Groglith, ond ni fydd unrhyw gasgliadau ar ddydd Llun 27 Mawrth, felly bydd pob casgliad un diwrnod yn hwyrach nag arfer am weddill yr wythnos honno hyd at ddydd Sadwrn 2 Ebrill.

How GREEN is your garden?

Register now for our garden waste collection service!

- Fortnightly collections from the kerbside between 4 April and 28 October.
- Recycle your green waste including plants, flowers, weeds, grass, leaves and hedge clippings.
- Subscription charge of £27, or £23 for pensioners.

To register, please call 01656 643643 and have your payment details ready.

I gofrestru, ffoniwch 01656 643643 gydai'ch manylion talu wrth law.

Pa mor WYRDD yw eich gardd?

Cofrestrwch nawr ar gyfer ein gwasanaeth casglu gwastraff gardd!

- Casgliadau ar ochr y stryd bob pythefnos rhwng 4 Ebrill a 28 Hydref.
- Ailgylchwch eich gwastraff gwyrdd gan gynnwys planhigion, blodau, chwyn, glaswellt, dail a thorion perthi.
- Tâl blynyddol o £27, neu £23 i bensiynwyr.

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To find out more about recycling in Bridgend County Borough, please go online at www.bridgend.gov.uk
I gael mwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn ag ailgylchu ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, ewch i www.bridgend.gov.uk

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: *tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk*

Cawl a Chân

ONCE again, the Ogmore Valley male voice choir held its 'Cawl a Chân', when everyone in the choir made the audience welcome in a wonderful, relaxed atmosphere.

A large part of this was down to musical director Eira Paskin, who succeeds in getting the majority of the audience involved. Cantorion Coety, a mixed voice choir whose musical director is also Eira Paskin, was the 'supporting act'.

The male choir started the evening's entertainment with the Alwyn Humphreys arrangement of 'Calon Lan', followed by two more songs. Cantorion Coety performed 'Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn', followed by two more songs, and the male choir then returned with its soloist Ted Bugler, who sang two items and the choir completed the first half with two new songs 'Valley Town' and 'If We Only Have Love'.

During the interval the male choir choristers served members of the audience a bowl of cawl, followed by homemade Welsh cakes and a slice of bara brith and after the interval continued with 'Gwahoddiad', followed by two more Welsh songs.

Cantorion Coety then sang 'Yfory' and two more songs, before both choirs combined for the finale and sang 'Moliannwn', with the audience joining in the choruses.

The evening ended with everyone standing and singing the Welsh national anthem.

Laleston WI

THE meeting on March 3 was opened by vice president Barbara Rees, who delighted everyone with news that president Margaret Aylen continues to make excellent progress after a stay at the Princess of Wales hospital.

The travel arrangements regarding the annual lunch at Blanco's, Port Talbot were announced, and the next book club meeting scheduled for March 15 in Bridgend Library at 2pm.

Further details were announced for the trips to Llanelli House on May 4 and Tyntesfield on August 17. Future excursions to the WI council meeting, Link meeting, Chepstow Races and midsummer dinner at Margam Park were all discussed.

Barbara introduced speaker Tom Phelps, who was extremely entertaining, reading his poems on Valley life. A vote of thanks was given by Joan Rule.

The raffle was won by Pat Williamson and the competition won by Marian Reed.

The next meeting will be held on April 7 at 7.15pm in Blandy Hall (Laleston Gardening Club). The guest speaker will be Andrew Evans on 'SOS Mountain Rescue'. The competition theme will be 'a nature item'. For further information, call Diane on 01656 656600

Danceathon

TYNYRHEOL Primary chool, Llangeinor PTFA is organising a Sport Relief 'Danceathon' on Friday, March 18 in Llangeinor Football Club at 7pm.

It will include a quiz night and 'Rock 'n Roll' bingo! Entry is £2 per person and quiz teams will have a maximum of six persons, with a cash prize of £25 for the winning team.

The school is proud to announce that Lloyd Grabham, one of its pupils was chosen as a top ten finalist in the recent 'Shining Scribes' writing competition.

Lloyd and his parents were invited to the presentation ceremony in the SWALEC stadium, Cardiff. The ceremony included a VIP 'access all areas' tour of the stadium, including the press area and the dressing rooms, where Lloyd could try on the cricket shirts of famous cricketers from around the world.

The top ten children were able to hear their stories narrated by a Welsh actor, which were then judged by a celebrity panel, and the winners announced. Lloyd was a runner-up and received prizes of books and stationery.

Aberkenfig WI

ABERKENFIG and District Women's Institute's vice president, Pat Lewis, welcomed members and two visitors and Happy Birthday was sung to Eunice Williams (president) even though she was on holiday in Sri Lanka.

The Glamorgan Federation Newsletter was perused and some items noted including the Science Festival on June 7 in Cheltenham Town Hall; Chepstow Race Day on July 14 and the annual council meeting in the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot on May 10; the lists for all of these will go around next month.

Leekes are inviting members to a meeting in the Llantrisant store and this visit will include cookery, product and cake decorating demonstrations and competitions.

The speaker for the afternoon was Melissa Thomas, from Thomas & Thomas Solicitors in Maesteg and Port Talbot whose subject was 'care of the elderly', and understanding the Power of Attorney and Wills.

Pat Lewis gave the vote of thanks to Melissa.

The raffle was won by Paddy Bailey and the competition for a pretty bookmark was won by Pauline Soley.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig WI will be on April 13 at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, when Caryl Mai Hughes, from the National Assembly for Wales outreach team will explain how the Assembly works. The competition will be for a royal mug. For further information, call Dilys on 01656 725399, or visit www.cobwebs.com, or www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomensinstitute.

Mayor of Maesteg fund

EASTER 'Eggstravaganza' in Maesteg Welfare Park on Sunday, March 20 is being run in conjunction with Halo Leisure, who are holding a fun-run in aid of Sport Relief.

There will be Easter egg hunts, Easter bonnet competition, bouncy castle, barbecue, games and other fun things.

Easter egg hunts are by ticket only, available from Lizzy's Candy, Talbot Street, at £3 per child. Don't forget to make your Easter bonnet for the competition, and bring it with you. Start at 11 am, and finish at 4 pm.

Glamorgan History Society

AT its next meeting on March 21 in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig , CF32 9RF there will be a talk on the history of mining in the Afon Valley, by Afon Argoed miners' museum. The doors open at 7pm and the talk begins at 7.30pm; all interested parties welcome.

Charity evening

THE Mayor, Coun Richard Young, is holding a charity fundraising concert titled 'An Evening of Musical Splendour' at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School, Brackla, CF31 2DN on Friday, March 18 at 7pm.

Guests include Porthcawl ukulele band, soloist Anwen Angharad, Ogmore Valley male choir, and the school jazz band. The compère is D Hugh Thomas CBE. Tickets are £5 from Mari Major or Coun Marlene Thomas, on 01656 664105/871439.

Food course

FREE courses open to residents who live in a Communities First residential area include a food preparation safety course in which you can gain a qualification in preparing, storing and re-heating food safely, and how to avoid common hazards, at Brackla Tabernacle on March 18 from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

A free lunch is provided; to book a place, phone Jess Jones on 01656 643634 or 07974 399194

School invite

TONDU Primary School invites families of pupils in Mr Lewis' class Llynfi to share in the class assembly tomorrow, March 18 at 10.20am; also Miss Davies' class Ogwr on March 24 at 10.20am.

The school is holding Easter bonnet parades on March 24 for pupils in Heol Persondy school building at 9.45am and those in Meadow Street at 2.30pm.

Congratulations!

IT is always nice to hear of a couple who are celebrating 50 years of wedded bliss: John and Jackie Summers from Nantyffyllon's special day is Saturday, March 26. I wish them well and hope they have many more happy days together.

PUPILS PIPE ÉCLAIRS FOR THE HOTEL CHEF

Pupils watch the professional chef in action.

LUCKY year-10 pupils from St Clare's School in Porthcawl, enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the kitchens at the Great House Hotel in Laleston last week, as part of a GCSE catering course.

Inside the Grade II listed building, the pupils were shown around the kitchens, watched professional chefs at work, and had the chance to pipe some éclairs themselves.

The highlight was definitely the afternoon tea at the end of the tour! The pupils relaxed in the hotel lounge and tucked into delicious scones, freshly-baked cakes and sandwiches. The chocolate brownies with raspberries were just lush! **HF**

Pensioners hold a festive party – in February!

WICK and District Pensioners Club have been out and about for a belated, but very enjoyable, joint Christmas lunch with Wick Youth Club in February at the Lamb and Flag, Wick, followed by a quiz and bingo.

Then came a relaxing weekend away in Torquay, when the weather was lovely and the trips and hotel were superb.

At the recent AGM, Ron Ayres was re-elected Chair, with Fay McGuinness deputy chair, Marj Dixon secretary, and George Jeffery treasurer. The next coach trip will be to Carmarthen and there are a few seats still available.

Please contact Marj (01656 890412) with regard to coach trips. The club meets on alternate Wednesdays in Wick Pavilion from 2pm-4pm. New members are always welcome.

Contact George on 01656 890386, or Marj for further information. **GJ**

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Lights switch off for Earth Hour

LOCAL residents are being urged to join in as lights go out across the world this Saturday, with millions of people taking part in Earth Hour.

"Simply switch off your home's lights for an hour from 8.30pm on Saturday, March 19 to join in with the unique global display of darkness that aims to focus the world's attention on our planet, and the need to protect it," a BCBC spokesman said.

The council is among local authorities in Wales showing their support by switching off non-essential lights in their buildings.

Last year in Wales, it's estimated that 500,000 people took part, while participating Welsh landmarks included the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, Caernarfon Castle, and The National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.

Anne Meikle, Head of WWF Cymru, said: "Climate change will have a massive impact on people, wildlife and habitats across the world, and we need to take action to protect them. By taking one simple step to switch off, you'll be joining millions of people around the world in this special celebration."

To sign up for Earth Hour 2016, and for further information, visit www.earthhour.org.

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LAMBS SAMPLE LIFE INSIDE A PoW CAMP!

AS a follow-up to two highly entertaining talks last year by Mike Clubb, on the Bridgend Arsenal and the nearby Island Farm prisoner of war camp, members of the LAMBS local history group attended an open weekend of the Hut 9 Preservation Society at the PoW camp, near Bridgend.

The LAMBS group visit Island Farm.

It turned out to be a very special occasion which left everyone full of admiration for the work of the preservation society over several years, in producing a first-class educational and recreational facility.

The tour began at the Hut 9 visitor centre with an entertaining illustrated talk by Brett Exton about the chequered history of the camp, which had four separate and very different uses during and after the Second World War.

It was built as a hostel for women workers at the Bridgend Arsenal, but they rejected the hostel accommodation in favour of lengthy bus trips each day to and from their homes.

The first occupants of the camp were American soldiers, stationed there in 1943 in preparation for the D-Day landings.

The invasion of Europe in 1944 produced large numbers of prisoners, and Island Farm was selected to hold about 2,000 of them.

The War Office later decided that German officers, rather than enlisted men, should be held at the camp and the first of these arrived in November 1944.

On the night of March 10, 1945, 70 prisoners escaped through a tunnel but all were recaptured.

All 1,600 prisoners were then transferred out of the camp and it was designated as a special camp to house senior German officers, including many awaiting transfer to Nuremberg to face trial or give evidence.

These senior officers included men with the rank of general, admiral, and field marshal, and some had been among Hitler's closest advisers. The camp finally closed in 1948.

Following Brett's talk, the society chair, Jonathan Hicks, conducted the LAMBS party to Hut 9, where they were given a further talk on personal childhood memories and the work of the Preservation Society, by the vice chair, Richard Williams.

They were then invited to view a wide range of outstanding displays and presentations by volunteers dressed in appropriate uniforms that graphically illustrated the various periods in the history of the camp.

Finally, the party were taken to see the site of the escape tunnel, which led from Hut 9 out under a nearby fortified boundary fence.

On behalf of LAMBS, Trevor Morgan thanked Jonathan, and the many volunteers who had contributed to the weekend event, for providing such valuable insights into important aspects of our local history. **MB**

New £1.2 billion 'City Deal' could bring 25,000 jobs to the region...

THERE was cross-party approval yesterday as both the Vale and Bridgend county borough were included in the £1.2 billion 'City Deal'.

The deal, which brings together 10 local authorities, includes more than £500m of Welsh Government support towards improving transport infrastructure within the region. It is expected to deliver up to 25,000 new jobs and bring in an additional £4 billion of private sector investment.

Welsh Government Finance Minister Jane Hutt AM said: "This is an important milestone and the culmination of months of detailed negotiations. With the local authorities contributing £120 million, the total investment is significant.

"The authorities asked for the Metro to be a central project in this City Deal and we agreed that it can bring wider economic development."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I am relieved that the Vale will be part of the City Deal.

"Being part of the deal means that our local area can benefit from major projects with improved infrastructure and job creation."

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, said: "The City Deal will bring benefits to all 10 local authority areas.

"The deal will also ensure that the Vale continues to be centre stage in the growth of the region and is able to maintain the momentum that has been generated by the regeneration of Barry and the recent announcement of significant investment in the St Athan Enterprise Zone."

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, said: "This once in a generation opportunity is yet further evidence that the UK government is prioritising Wales and that Conservatives are delivering for communities in the region.

"The hard work now begins on ensuring the deal delivers for all and benefits not only Cardiff but the people and communities across the region."

Eluned Parrott, Lib-Dem AM for South Wales Central, said:

"The City Deal programme was set up by the Liberal Democrats in the last coalition to give greater funding and powers to local authorities.

"This huge level of investment will see more powers given to local communities to take control, and ensure prosperity reaches every corner of our region, rather than localizing in one area.

AWARDS FOR HELPING THE HARD OF HEARING

LOCAL organisations who ensure they are accessible to the one-in-six people in Wales who are deaf, or hard of hearing, are being urged to bid for a prestigious award.

Action on Hearing Loss Cymru Excellence Wales awards recognise businesses and organisations who enable the 575,500 people to use their services.

Formerly RNID, it has been a charity supporting people who are deaf, or have hearing loss since 1911, and launched the Excellence Wales awards last year.

These are open to public services, private companies and voluntary organisations providing services in Wales. Entries will be judged by a panel of people who are deaf, or have hearing loss. Awards will be presented to the country's three outstanding organisations at a glittering gala dinner at Cardiff's Marriott Hotel on May 20, presented by journalist Mariclare Carey-Jones, alongside special celebrity guests.

In 2015, Bridgend County Borough Council was the main Excellence Wales award winner for their regular deaf awareness training for staff, engagement with local British Sign Language users and proactive approach to ensure assistive technology, such as hearing loops, are in working order.

Full information and applications forms are available at excellencewales@hearingloss.org.uk or call 02920 333034. Entries must be submitted by May 1.

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UNSUNG NHS HEROES
Caring Joy, Rosemary and Bev share top award

THREE members of staff from Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale willing to go that extra mile to help those in need were deservedly recognised at the NHS Staff Recognition Awards recently.

Joy Corley, Rosemary Counsell and Bev Williams were joint winners of the Chair and Chief Executive's Award – caring for people and keeping them well – day in, day out, and demonstrating the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's core values of kindness, care, honesty, integrity, respect and personal responsibility.

The UHB state that this award is aimed specifically for the 'Unsung Heroes'.

A spokesperson said that all three women were nominated for their efforts in seeing patients promptly, looking at the whole person and going above and beyond their role in supporting the community resource team, to keep older people well and as safe as they can be at home.

PICTURED (left to right): Bev Williams, Joy Corley and Rosemary Counsell.

The Age Connects team work with individuals identified as vulnerable to social isolation.

Joy was especially recognised for her role working in partnership with Anna Sussex at the UHW in the better management of attendees to accident and emergency and out of hours referral thus saving valuable NHS resources.

Rosemary uses her own personal time to ensure the well-being of those she is working with. Bev spent Christmas Eve ensuring that an isolated and vulnerable older person was not without heating and did not come to any harm.

Rosemary Counsell commented: "We were absolutely stunned to realise that we had won the award, and thrilled for the recognition of the work that Age Connects does. It's a great privilege and very humbling, as we know many other people are working hard too without any public recognition".

To find out more about Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale services to assist local older people, visit www.ageconnectscardiff.org.uk or call 02920 683 604.

POLICE CAUTION: If it's too good to be true, it probably is!

DC IAN ROCHE, from the economic crime unit of South Wales Police, recently gave a well-attended recent meeting of Cowbridge U3A information on common types of fraud, and advice on what could be done to avoid becoming a victim.

Fraud imposes a massive cost on individuals, legitimate businesses and public authorities. Half of all victims are age between 41 and 60, so it's not just the "confused" and elderly who are susceptible; fraudsters are known to sell on a "suckers'" list, so that vulnerable people are likely to be targeted on multiple occasions.

The main types of fraudulent practices were described by DC Roche, including Boiler Room Investment scams where people are encouraged to buy shares or commodities such as vintage wine, which apparently offer excellent returns, but prove to be worthless, of course.

'Vishing' involves telephone calls purporting to be from the police or your bank, where access to your accounts or credit cards is sought.

One of the cruellest frauds is when victims are offered assistance in recovering the money they have already lost to crime, but there needs to be a payment in advance to cover the costs.

Some good news was that Chip and PIN credit and debit cards are far more secure than the older style cards with just magnetic strips containing information.

He urged people to keep personal information safe. Be suspicious of e-mails from people or organisations that you are unfamiliar with – if in doubt, don't open them. In the case of telephone calls, check out who you are dealing with – your bank and the police will NEVER ask for confidential information, nor ask you to move money between accounts, nor to give your credit card to a courier.

The best advice on keeping yourself safe from fraud was to remember, "If it's too good to be true, it probably is," he said.

A talk entitled: 'The Life of Composer Rossini, with piano illustrations' by Rev Clive Williams will given at 2pm on April 13 in Cowbridge Town Hall. Visitors welcome; there is a small fee, which includes refreshments. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

SPM

EASTER AT BARRY LIBRARY

MARCH 29, drop-in Easter crafts from 10am – 12pm for children 4+ (accompanied by an adult); £1 charge.

March 30, storytime at 2pm; **March 31** Minecraft, 2pm – 4pm; book online at www.milittlepad.com.

April 4 Dungeons and Dragons, for ages 9 – 12; April 6, storytime at 2pm. **April 7**, Minecraft 2pm – 4pm, book online as above.

April 8 crafty Friday, 10.30am – 11.30pm for ages 6+, call to book. £1 charge. Raspberry Pi 2pm – 4pm, for ages 9+; book online on Eventbrite.

To book a place or for more information, call 01446 422425.

Nutrition and hydration week!

NUTRITION and Hydration Week returns to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) on March 14-16 and this year's theme is 'Important for your patient, important for you'.

The focus of the campaign is to create a global movement that will reinforce and focus energy, activity and engagement on nutrition and hydration as an important part of quality care, experience and safety improvement in health and social care settings.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board will be running a collaborative initiative throughout the week between dietetics, nursing teams, catering and therapy professions, to promote the values of nutrition and hydration.

The public can visit promotional stands in the concourse at the University Hospital of Wales and The Plaza at University Hospital Llandough throughout the week.

Follow @CV_UHB and @NHWeek on twitter for regular updates on activities taking place throughout the week. Add the #NHweek tag to get involved.

The Stitch and Craft group.

Airport's record rise in passengers

FOLLOWING nine months of steady growth, the total number of passengers travelling through Wales' national Airport over the rolling year has passed the 1.2 million mark.

This follows a record-breaking February, which saw passenger numbers increase by 68 per cent (totalling 75,055) on the previous year.

Routes seeing the largest passenger growth are: 1. Dublin – operated by Aer Lingus and Flybe; 2. Edinburgh – operated by Flybe; 3. Paris – operated by Flybe; 4. Faro – operated by Flybe and Thomson; 5. Lanzarote – operated by Thomas Cook and Thomson Holidays.

Debra Barber, managing director and chief operating officer at Cardiff Airport, said: "2015 has been a real turning point for Cardiff Airport. Looking ahead to the coming year, we are confident we will build on this success. We continue to work with new and incumbent airlines to offer more travel choices for our customers and we will continue to enhance the passenger journey with a new departures area opening in summer 2016."

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Fascinating talk on the Houston brothers

IT was a return visit for Dean Powell when he spoke to the March meeting of Sully U3A, having previously spoken on the life of Dr William Price.

His subject this time was the actor, Glyn Houston. He told members about Houston's early life in Tonypandy, where he was one of three children, his older brother being the actor Donald Houston, and how his grandmother, Rose, was an important influence on his life.

Whereas his brother Donald's career as an actor took off after auditioning for a theatre group, becoming friends with Stanley Baxter and Richard Burton, Glyn served in the army in the Second World War and was briefly a stand-up comedian, performing to soldiers.

He made his first film appearance in *The Blue Lamp* in 1950 and this was the start of a career which has seen him make over 200 film and television appearances. He is now 90 years old and still does voice overs- and radio work. It was a fascinating glimpse not only into Glyn's life, but also Donald's and the film and TV industry.

Members also had a short presentation by representatives of the Age Cymru Handy Man team, who gave information on the services available to anyone over 50, including advice on smoke alarms, home energy checks and carbon monoxide alarms.

During the month, the Knitters and Stitchers Group has been busy, visiting Cowbridge for a presentation on knitting yarns and designs by a representative of Bergere de France and visiting the Stitch and Craft Show at Malvern.

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, April 14 at 2pm in the Old School, Sully, when members will be entertained by the Singing for Pleasure group. New members are always welcome.

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Little Grey Fergie is the star of The One Show!

BBC's *The One Show* came to the Vale of Glamorgan on Saturday, March 5 to film the Ferguson Model T.20 tractor, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary throughout the world this year.

The T.20 was built in Coventry between 1946 and 1956 by Harry Ferguson.

The Ferguson Club in south Wales organised the event at the request of *The One Show*. Filming started in Aberthin, Cowbridge at 9am with the Tractor Boys of Aberthin.

Martyn Huish was on hand to assist the *One Show*'s reporter, Christine Walkden, to work on a Ferguson Model T.20 – 'the little grey Fergie' – to get it ready for the afternoon filming at Ogmore Castle Field.

The Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society helped to ensure that there were 22 Model T.20 Ferguson tractors on site at Ogmore Castle for the filming of the parade, with Christine driving the lead tractor.

A number of spectators attended the filming and a collection was made for the Wales Air Ambulance fund.

Christine thanked everyone for attending and for support given to the filming crew, and raised a glass to 'the little grey Fergie', with the hope that it will still be here for the next 70 years.

The south Wales representative of the Ferguson Club, Basil George, of Ogmore village, thanked the film crew for showing how much work is put into making a film for TV.

He also thanked Rob Williams for the use of his field, and the Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society and the Tractor Boys of Aberthin for all their work in making the filming a success.

Basil welcomed the Ferguson Club's vice-chairman, Peter Aston, who had travelled from Gwent for the day.

Luckily the weather was good for the filming of the programme, which will help to ensure that the memory of Harry Ferguson will live on in the years to come.

All pictures by **GLYN EVANS**

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In response to customer feedback, we've also packed in more of the useful knowledge we've built up in our 21-plus years improving homes.

For example, visit securahome.co.uk and you will find sections explaining how window energy efficiency ratings work, along with advice about conservation areas, local authority planning and building control, among others.

There's also advice from an award-winning architect about how to create the perfect orangery as well as examples of installations that have taken place across south Wales.

To ensure you get the information you need quickly, the website is mobile-friendly, so you can browse it on your iPad, tablet or smart phone.

In fact the new Securahome website is the next best thing to visiting our Gorseinon showroom. We hope you agree.

If you are looking for ideas about your next home improvement visit the **NEW** Securahome website at: **www.securahome.co.uk**

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Work starts on housing development

LEFT: Jason Taylor, operations director at Kier Construction, with Gareth Davies of Coastal Housing and Coun Nott at the ceremony.

WORK has begun on the construction phase of an ambitious new plan to regenerate Bridgend town centre that combines housing, commercial space and a new multi-storey car park, funded by Coastal Housing Group, Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council.

Cabinet members, including Council Leader Mel Nott, joined project staff and contractor Kier at a ceremony which celebrated the cutting of the first sod and marked the official start of construction on the new Rhiw project.

Located in the heart of Bridgend town centre, the new facility will replace the existing multi-storey car park with affordable apartments, commercial space and safer and more modern car park facilities.

Officially breaking ground at the site, Coun Nott said: "This new and unique project is one of the most significant that we have worked on in Bridgend to date and symbolises an important chapter for the town as we continue to develop and improve the town centre.

"This investment will make a major contribution to Bridgend, creating a community of people living within the heart of the town centre, boosting trade and helping to support the local economy."

The new development will incorporate 28 apartments with dedicated parking for residents, which are designed to attract people either working in or near the town centre or commuters looking to live close to vital transport links.

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Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D922.

- **£2,000:** 347542.
- **The rollover was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 192571, 521847, 614095, 167188, 479137, 543535, 882187, 411602, 735925, 193409, 751486, 183599, 926640, 521332, 860019, 414836, 562463, 922361, 112978, 492990.
- **£5:** 491688, 766428, 758254, 852696, 517217, 429020, 896806, 357736, 984458, 385912, 663683, 813281, 436063, 653247, 798273, 709363, 509385, 271367, 385955, 388294, 739669, 693020, 308876, 888942, 193977, 395385, 818858, 494733, 169540, 781329, 988376, 410650, 232801, 736683, 550387, 428892, 808403, 236756, 528868, 678898, 126084, 402992, 628054, 639649, 654541, 818893, 287309, 336306, 223101, 368464, 438667, 321347, 383527, 475567, 496904, 728903, 369618, 1985168, 1985467, 1985270.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

That adult choir was in fine voice.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

St Michael and All Angels, Colwinston, has had a busy two months, starting when local Brownies and Guides came to the church in February to take part in a Thinking Day service and told about their organisations.

Phoebe Cook was enrolled into Brownies at this service. The church was full to hear the children's choir sing special songs for Mother's Day: Amalia, Anna, Anabel, Grace, Evie, Harriet and Katie had rehearsed for several weeks and sang beautifully.

All the mums were given flowers and the children placed cards on the Prayer Tree thanking Jesus for their mums.

On Passion Sunday, the adult occasional choir, Andrew, Gareth, Julie, Sue, Julie D, Cynthia, Susie and Lynne, sang the *Passion Choral* and the *Ave Verum*. Again, they had rehearsed for many weeks and the singing was excellent, especially the *Ave Verum* in Latin.

The parish has a variety of services during Holy Week and Easter with Maundy Thursday in Llysworney, Good Friday in Llandow and Colwinston and Easter Day in all three churches. **KJ**

Porthcawl's largest ever Easter egg hunt!

THREE hundred plastic eggs will be hidden throughout Porthcawl's streets this Saturday (March 19) for the town's largest ever Easter egg hunt!

Between 11am and 4pm, you can join the search for the pink, green and yellow eggs that will be placed on John Street, Dock Street, Well Street, Lias Road, Station Hill (New Road), the seafront end of Mary Street, and on the Esplanade between the Grand Pavilion and Cosy Corner.

Each child taking part is asked to only take one egg – all of which will win a prize. Once found, simply open your egg to find instructions on how to claim your prize.

The free event will also feature music and entertainment, while the Easter bunny and his friends will be out on the streets helping you to hunt down those eggs!

Children can also enjoy egg-stra fun on the day by taking part in a competition to design their own Easter eggs.

The Porthcawl 'Eggs-travagant' Easter Egg Hunt is being supported by Bridgend County Borough Council, Porthcawl Town Council, Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, the Porthcawl Town Centre Partnership and is part-funded by Welsh Government.

OUT AND ABOUT

A charity craft fair coffee morning will be held this Saturday, March 19, at 10.30am–12.30pm in Trinity Methodist Church, Penarth, where a wide range of locally - produced crafts and Easter treats will be on offer.

As well as 24 craft stalls, there will also be a cake stall, a book stall and raffle. All profits will be donated to the Wales Air Ambulance charity.

Entrance will be via the Woodland Place door and is £1.50 per person.

Contact Ceri-Lou at fundraising@trinitypenarth.org.uk or call Ro on 01446 701072.

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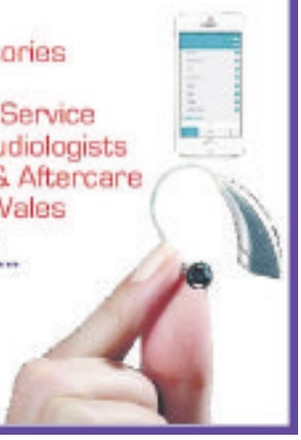

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Out & About with The GEM

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PANDA 'THREEQUEL' FIZZES WITH PLEASING WIT AND ENERGY...

WHEN *Kung Fu Panda* was released in 2008, it was a pleasant surprise – comedic, with an underpinning of adult themes, and a range of animals doing kung fu; what more could you want!

It was followed by a sequel in 2011, and that was successful enough for a third instalment which goes by the rather unimaginative name of *Kung Fu Panda 3* (no need for a colon and portentous title here).

This time round, Po (voiced by Jack Black) is faced with his biggest challenge yet – reconnecting with his long-lost father Li (voiced by Bryan Cranston). The pair travel to meet a secret group of pandas, but when the villainous Kai (J K Simmons) sweeps across China defeating all kung fu masters, Po must train his fellow pandas in the ways of the martial arts...

It's a pretty common rule that by the time a franchise reaches its third instalment, the law of diminishing returns kicks in (if hasn't already by the second part!). On that basis, and coupled with the fact that it's been five years since the second outing for Po and friends, *Kung Fu Panda 3* should be a disappointing disaster, a cash-in on the goodwill and name value of the series.

That it's not is a pleasant surprise; that it's actually one of the most visually inventive and enjoyable animation films you are likely to see this year is an even more pleasant surprise.

After all, this has never been a franchise that has rested on its laurels, and the fact that third time around you are still left impressed by not just the gorgeous visuals, but the dexterity in the storytelling is a testament to the creative forces behind the scenes.

The building blocks of the series so far are in place early – Po is still, despite being rather good at kung fu,

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

as accident-prone and goofy as ever, a larger threat that requires him to 'bear' up and defend people is the main story thread as he learns valuable life lessons – but in this outing, it's the dressing over such staples that makes this a worthwhile viewing experience.

Visually, the film maintains the standards set by the other outings by being gorgeous to look at, a superb mix of faultless animation and an eye for the genre, the occasional use of split screens and anime-esque visuals fitting tonally – and looking amazing.

There is also, from an adult perspective, the satisfaction of seeing the film's 'message' delivered without being cloying or annoying is great; it doesn't talk down to the target audience and strikes a balance between the age ranges, delivering good gags and story.

The voice cast are all strong, even if the starry supporting cast of the likes of Angelina Jolie, Seth Rogen et al are sidelined through the plot's focus on Po (a cynic would suggest the talent weren't that keen to be involved, or budget cuts), but Jack Black is great as the titular panda, while Bryan Cranston as his father knows his way around a joke or two and offers the gravitas needed for such a role.

If Kate Hudson's Mei Mei being given too little screen time is a dampener, then it's made up for with J K Simmons' wonderfully-villainous Kai, a memorable villain who strikes a neat line between real malevolence and a snarky self-deprecating personality, brought wonderfully to life by the actor.

By the film's end there is every chance (subject to box-office receipts) that there'll be a fourth outing for the Kung Fu Panda and his chums – but as long as the films continue to be as satisfying and enjoyable as this one, that can only be a good thing!

VERDICT: A film that is more energised and exciting than many 'threequels', *Kung Fu Panda 3* is tremendous offering, fizzing with wit and energy. The voice cast are top-notch, and the film is delivered with a visual zeal that makes this one of the most thrilling animation films of the year. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Kung Fu Panda* (2008), *How To Train Your Dragon 2* (2014).

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Morris Minor for Marie Curie

IN September the National Morris Minor Owners' Club is celebrating its 40th anniversary by taking a 1962 Morris Minor on a trip through the UK.

The branch kicked off its fundraising on Mother's Day and will be at a number of classic car shows throughout the summer.

It will attempt to visit all 58 of the club branches in the UK, as well as all nine of the Marie Curie hospices. The car will be at Holme Towers on Thursday, September 29.

Pictured are cars from the south Wales branch, at the Penarth hospice.

What's on and where...

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, March 17 the society has an illustrated lecture on 'A Personal View of Modern Art' by Abergavenny artist Daniel Williams.

The following week is the annual presentation of the Keith James Trophy from paintings by society members.

The society meets each Thursday 7pm – 9pm at Old Hall, Cowbridge and visitors and new members are most welcome (occasional visitor's fee £3).

For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent councillors will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major, this Saturday (March 19) from 9.30am – 11.30am.

Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Ward councillors' surgeries

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and Court wards in Barry – Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan – will hold their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, March 19, from 10am – 11am in the small community room of Barry Library, Kings Square.

No appointment is necessary.

Gibbonsdown surgery

Vale councillors for the Gibbonsdown ward, Couns Margaret Wilkinson and Rob Curtis, will hold a surgery on Saturday, March 19 in the Gibbonsdown community centre between 11am and noon.

Local residents with council-related problems are invited to come along.

If you are unable to get to the surgery, call 01446 73628.

Easter fayre

ON Saturday, March 19, the Pencoed Town and District Twinning Association's fair will include a table top sale with many different items on offer, including wood turning and carving, jewellery, Easter cards, jams and chutneys, and cheeses Refreshments will be available.

The day will also feature a raffle, with main prizes a round of golf for four people at Vale Resort national course (donated by Mercedes-Benz Bridgend) and a Sony digital camera (donated by Sony TEC).

The event will be opened by Huw Irranca-Davies MP at 11am at Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall in the centre of Pencoed, with plenty of parking.

Entry is free.

Spring fair in Penarth

THE Windsor Bowling Club, Penarth will hold their spring fair at the clubhouse in Robinswood Crescent this Saturday, March 19.

Starting at 10am, entrance is £1 to include coffee or tea and a hot cross bun. There will be cake, bottle and plant stalls, guessing games, a raffle, bran tub, and bric-a-brac.

All are welcome for a morning of fun and relaxation.

Valeways guided walks

ON Sunday, March 20 there will be a Cardiff Bay to Castle river trip and walk; meet at Cardiff barrage car park (fee payable) at 9.10am, cost of boat trip £3.

On Wednesday, March 23 the Coffee Shop Strollers will meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap at 10.30am.

Spring topic

THE next meeting of the Barry Floral Society will be held at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, on Tuesday, March 22, when the demonstrator will be Mrs Kathy Lee of Whitland.

Big Screen

BIG Screen's next film for this season is *The Lady in the Van* (Cert 12A) on Thursday, March 24 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

It features Maggie Smith as the eccentric Miss Shepherd and Alex Jennings as author Alan Bennett.

Doors open 7.10pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Cancer Research fundraiser

ON Saturday, April 2 the Hi-Tide Hotel in Porthcawl will host a Cancer Research UK spring lunch; tickets £8 from Diane Jones on 01656 784762 and members of the committee.

History of mining

History of mining

THE next meeting of the Bridgend branch of the Glamorgan Family History Society will take place at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig CF39 9RF, on March 21. *The subject is Afan Argoed and the history of mining in the Afan Valley. Doors open 7pm; talk begins at 7.30pm. All welcome.*

Young people with disabilities put their photos on show

BEECHWOOD College in Sully has organised a photography exhibition at the Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay, this week ending on Sunday (March 20).

Young people with disabilities were asked to photograph their communities and try to capture what they mean to them.

There are three categories – portrait, still life and landscape.

"The winners of each category won cash prizes and are having their works professionally printed and sent to their schools," a spokeswoman said.

See http://www.norwegianchurchcardiff.com/content.asp?nav=2,6&parent_directory_id=1&id=292&Language=.

Charity calls for donations

THE Dogs Trust's Cowbridge shop is looking for donations of unwanted items – from household ornaments and clothing to electrical items and DVDs.

The sale proceeds will go towards caring for the 17,000 dogs awaiting new homes at Dogs Trust's network of 20 rehoming centres across the UK, including Bridgend.

Unwanted items can be left at the Dogs Trust Cowbridge charity shop 62 Eastgate, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7AB between 9am – 5pm Monday to Saturday; call 01446 774423 or email charityshops@dogstrust.org.uk for further information.

Easter services

THE 10 Methodist churches in the Vale of Glamorgan have the following services and events during Holy Week and Easter.

Holy Tuesday: 2pm, Crossway, Barry – Reflective Service with Holy Communion; 7pm Barry Uniting Church, the Waterfront Church – reading Mark's Gospel.

Maundy Thursday: 7pm, Cadoxton – Holy Communion. 7.30pm, St David's, Barry – Holy Communion. 7.30pm, Barry Uniting Church – Holy Communion at Trinity Presbyterian Church and 7.30pm Eastbrook – Holy Communion.

Good Friday: 10.30am – 12.30pm The Gathering Place, St Athan – children's Holy Week event. 10.30am, Cadoxton – open church for prayer. 10am Walk of Witness in Penarth (to be confirmed). 11am Trinity – Stations of the Cross. 12 noon Churches of Barry Walk of Witness, start from Knap Gardens. 2pm – 3pm, St David's – open church for prayer and silence. 2pm – 3pm, The Gathering Place – Reflective Service. 4.30pm, Dinas Powys Churches Together Walk of Witness, from War memorial.

Easter Day: 6.30am, Penarth cliff top – sunrise Service.

There are Easter Day Services with Holy Communion at all circuit churches, contact your local church for times and more details. Call 01446 406262 or visit Facebook page, Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Circuit, or sites google.com/site/valeofglamorganmethodists.

Experience the Burn in this Adventure Spectacular

IT'S the 2016 Year of Adventure in Wales, and nothing says adventure quite like a Burn Series event in the picturesque surroundings of Margam Park on Saturday, April 2.

Attracting all levels and abilities there are two distances to choose from: the Mini Burn – consisting of a 3km run, 1km kayak and 10km mountain bike, allows adults and juniors to compete together as a team. It's the only event of it's kind in the UK and consequently has gained many fans.

Among the Burn supporters is previous world champion adventure racer Nick Gracie, who has competed in the Mini Burn many times before with his nine-year-old son, George.

"It's been a great father and son bonding experience. George has loved the races and can't wait for the next one. It has also encouraged him to do more running and cycling as he wants to go a little faster next time."

The second distance, the Burn, the ultimate fitness challenge is a 10km run, 1km kayak and 40km mountain bike orienteer.

The day is part funded by the Welsh Government and as it is the Year of Adventure in Wales, there will also be some additional adventure challenges to test both competitors and inquisitive spectators.

Supporting the event will be live entertainment from The Wave radio station and Llantrisant-based up and coming band The Broadcasts, who have recently been featured on BBC Radio Wales.

ITV Wales' Coast and Country presenter, Andrew Price, will also be providing some bushcraft demonstrations and sponsors 9Bar and More Drinks will be on hand to provide all competitors with free samples.

Organiser Maria Leijerstam who holds two world first records, said: "I have designed these races to ensure competitors will be able sample the excitement of adventure racing in a fun and friendly way and share the buzz that I feel about the sport."

AL

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EASTER IS A TIME OF JOY AND FUN AT HIGH STREET

THE dark, damp days of winter are behind us – and now the light evenings are arriving, the sun is glittering, and Easter is almost upon us.

In High Street, Barry, that means the Easter bonnet parade.

Where, you may wonder, does this much loved tradition come from? Well, the idea was that at this time of year people should wear some new clothes, so Easter finery – and extravagant bonnets – became a tradition.

Bob Armstrong of High Street traders told The GEM: "Our Easter Bonnet parade will take place on Saturday, March 26.

"There will be three categories, so everyone, no matter how young or how old, can take part."

Of course, there will be prizes for the winners.

Bob added: "The categories will be nought to five, six to 11 and 12 to 100 and over!

"We're hoping that Alun Cairns and Jane Hutt will act as judges.

"Mums and dads and children should assemble outside Habanas in High Street at 10.45am.

"The bonnet parade will start at 11am, and will make its way up and down High Street."

The bonnet parade always makes for a colourful spectacle and seeing the young children in their Easter hats is a joy to see.

Fay Blakeley's gift boutique Homemade Wales located on Island Road always has something that little bit different – including Barry Island cushions! Fay has a passion for promoting handcrafted Welsh products that benefit the local economy and the wider one in Wales.

Barry's West End has thousands of gifts – so don't rely on an Easter egg!

A trip to High Street, Barry can make Easter extra special.

Anyone who knows anything about High Street shopping realises that the business owners always make the effort to provide something that little bit different.

Many people find the Christmas build-up something of a marathon – but strangely Easter is a sprint, with loved-ones often relying on the simple gift of an Easter egg.

Surely it's nice to get a memorable gift – and High Street businesses will inspire you.

Take **Aspirations Florist** at 9 High Street which can provide a wonderful bouquet; or create a flower arrangement to brighten your home over the festive period.

Homemade Wales on Island Road is the quintessential 'alternative' gift boutique.

It specialises in hand-crafted items and housewares.

Fay Blakeley, the owner, said: "All the stock is crafted in Wales and made by hand. Customers love the fact that everything is really different."

Barry Island cushions in seaside pastel colours; vintage personalised silver spoons; aromatic candles with the fragrances in bara brith, Welsh cake, jasmine, passion fruit and coconut; the Welshification of greeting cards with designs like *Robinson Croeso*, *Cwtch Me If You Can* and *When Barry met Sully*; ceramics; hand-printed wrapping paper; slate love spoons – there's so much that's worth a browse.

Fay's business benefits the local economy and Welsh crafts people too.

For more information go to: *Facebook.com/homemadewales*.

Even from outside **The Smelly Shop** at 100 High Street it smells wonderful as the gorgeous scents escape through the front door.

The shop, jointly owned by Emma and Claire, sells luxury handcrafted soaps and bath bombs, home fragrance soya bean candles, gift sets, cushions, bags, scarves and home accessories.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Doctor Bob's Balloons has a colourful display.

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Izmir Restaurant: A FRIENDLY WELCOME AND A GREAT MEAL

GURKAN and Ali of the Izmir Turkish and Greek Restaurant, pride themselves on a great reputation for providing a friendly welcome – along with a delicious, wide-ranging menu.

The Izmir Turkish and Greek Restaurant at 19 Broad Street, Barry, will be providing a warm welcome to its customers over the Easter period.

There are hot, cold and seafood starters, fish dishes, a selection of main courses, chargrilled and vegetarian dishes and salads.

The menu also has an invaluable 'vegetarian, nut, dairy and gluten' guide for customers who have to be careful about what they eat.

The restaurant is spacious and includes two dining areas.

Why not treat the family to an evening at the Izmir Restaurant, and save yourself the cooking?

The opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday, lunch: 12noon to 2.30pm; evening: 5.30pm until late. Sunday: 12.30pm to 9pm. ***To book, call 01446 700050.***

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Making your Easter extra special

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Butterflies is famed for its popular Yankee Candles, but it's easy to spend half an hour browsing through the full array of gift products.

There are soaps, jewellery, scented bath bombs, ornaments, cushions, moisturisers, Yankee Candles (of course) Village Candles, make up items, gift sets and hampers and more!

The owner Jodie said: "On April 9, we will be celebrating our eighth anniversary and there will be a special event – so clients should keep a special eye out for that."

For even more on Butterflies, go to: *www.facebook.com/Butterflies-Barry-169891353071770/.*

So take a stroll along Broad Street, Market Street, Island Road and High Street this Easter – there's a gift or service for everyone, and you can be guaranteed that extra special customer service.

Tony Hopkins of popular local butchers Vic Hopkins & Son, advises customers to put in orders by Wednesday, March 23 for the new season's Welsh spring lamb. For more information, tel 01446 735265.

Butterflies is a palace of gifts – over two floors, with Yankee Candles among the most popular and enduring.

Gorgeous brands on offer at Bryl's Boutique

ABOVE: Ted Baker, available at Bryl's Boutique.

THE rails in Bryl's Boutique are filled with gorgeous new spring-summer collections from fantastic brands such as Ted Baker, French Connection, Great Plains, Joules, Darling, Masai, Sandwich and Yaya.

Teamed with Ugg footwear, a pair of Fit Flops or a gorgeous handbag, there really is something to suit all ages and purses at Bryl's.

Claire at The Smelly Shop has wonderful gift sets for Easter.

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To order a bouquet call 01446 738610

The Food for Thought deli at 12 High Street, founded by Dave and Lynda Keeble is a Barry institution. Now run by son Nathan and his wife Sarah it has a great, friendly atmosphere and strives to supply the best foods from around Wales and further afield. Treat yourself to specialist cheeses, home cooked meats, fresh made bread, baguettes, rolls, paninis, sandwiches, cakes and sweet bites to go with your perfect baguette, spices and herbs. To cut a long story short, it is a must visit for Easter provisions! www.foodforthoughtbarry.co.uk; tel 01446 735711.

Walkers go 'over the stiles or not!'

ON a bright sunny morning, 11 Valeways walkers set off from The Pelican to climb to the top of Ogmore Down. It was a steep climb but on reaching the top, the views opened out across the Bristol Channel to North Devon and Exmoor.

Passing golfers on Southerndown golf course, the walkers dropped down into the village of St Bride's, passing the church of St Bridget on the way.

Turning right, they headed for the now closed (unfortunately) Farmers Arms and then walked across fields to the top of Pant y Slade and walked down the valley to Dunraven Bay, where a stop was made.

They then climbed the steps to the top of the cliff heading for Ogmore by Sea. In the sunshine, it was a glorious walk along the cliff top. A red kite soared overhead and Chris pointed out 350 million-year-old fossilised coral in the rocks.

Turning inland to trek up the Ogmore valley, the group walked through the sand dunes to cross the road by Portobello House. A heron flying over was being mobbed by gulls who clearly were unhappy about its presence!

The group climbed a footpath running parallel with the road but higher up, with extensive views over Merthyr Mawr. A short walk along this path brought them back to the pub for welcome food and drink. Many thanks to The Pelican for their hospitality and the use of their car park.

CAROLYN GULLY

The first team of willing volunteers, with Keith Hatton left and Chris Franks, chair, on right.

Dinas Powys call for library volunteers

LIBRARY volunteer open day got off to a flying start at the Dinas Powys Library after the steering committee of the community library arranged to formally sign up volunteers who will be trained and have the assistance of a peripatetic librarian.

Dinas Powys is one of five community libraries to be created which include Sully, Rhoose, St Athan and Wenvoe.

The Vale cabinet has accepted the business case of the Dinas Powys steering group and intends to enter into legal agreements with the group.

Coun Chris Franks, chair of the steering group, said: "We are making steady progress, but there is a great deal of work to be undertaken. It looks as though the short-term funding arrangements are in place and we have a large team of people willing to assist.

"A constitution is being agreed along with the necessary policies and training. The existing book stock will be retained and refreshed as necessary along with the continuation of the computers.

"We do face challenges and we are fortunate to have a great deal of community support. We will be having more opportunities for people who have expressed an interest to formally sign up. Please contact Keith Hatton on 07749825751 or email khatton263@btinternet.com. New faces welcome."

BIN BAG PLAN ANNOUNCED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said that households would be supplied with bags in a particular colour to last a year (presumably 52).

He continued: "We will also look at ways of preventing abuse of the scheme and potential arrangements for larger households.

"One thing that proved to be extremely popular in the consultation feedback was a proposed collection scheme for nappies and other absorbent hygiene products.

"This would remove the need for such items to be placed in refuse sacks, so we will be looking at ways in which this could be introduced across the county borough as well.

"The majority of respondents were opposed to proposals for prohibiting black bags at civic amenity sites, so we will look at options that will allow black bag waste to continue to be accepted once recyclable items have been removed instead.

"We'll also be looking at issues such as assisted collections, collections at addresses with multiple occupants and more."

The Leader of BCBC, Coun Mel Nott OBE, added: "How waste and recycling is dealt with is a divisive issue, as everyone has a different method that they prefer.

"What the council has to do is to find a way of taking all of the feedback into account and finding some common ground that is both affordable and realistic.

"I cannot emphasise enough how important it is to hit the new targets, as there are fixed penalties of £200 for every excess tonne that goes to landfill. In other words, missing the target by just one per cent would mean local taxpayers would face a penalty of up to £150,000.

"Work will now be carried out on developing the new scheme for tender ahead of a planned launch in April 2017, and we'll be issuing further information about what householders can expect to see as part of this."

Ikea takes on young Vale apprentices

TWO young people from Barry have become Ikea's first retail apprentices in Wales.

Andrew Boulton (20) and Jemma Deverell (22) have been recruited by Itec Skills and Employment, to join Ikea Cardiff.

The duo and three other apprentices, Dale Edwards (18) from Llanrumney, Ryan Taylor (18) from Llanedeyrn, and Tyrell Mottram, (21) from Ely, will receive training and support in-store from one of Itec's specialist assessors.

Jade boutique has summer specials for your wardrobe!

LEFT:
Jade ladies' clothes shop in Barry has spring and summer stock arriving from top designers like Frank Lyman

FRANK LYMAN is one of Jade boutique's most popular designers. New stock is arriving every day for your new spring and summer wardrobe!

Jane, the owner of Jade boutique, said: "I'll soon be celebrating the first anniversary of moving into my new premises and want to thank all my valued customers for their support."

Jade BOUTIQUE
New Season Stock Arriving Daily
ADESSO SANDALS
have now arrived
Happy Easter to all my customers
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01446 730811

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Vale roadworks

ROADWORKS: Junction 34 Miskin Interchange. A4050 Port Road, from junction with Culverhouse Cross to its junction with Nant Isaf, Wenvoe.

Temporary traffic control: A4055 Harbour Road, Barry (the Causeway). A4055 Harbour Road, Barry (bottom of Ship Hill). Paget Road, Barry Island at its junction with Clive Road and Plymouth Road. Stirling Road junction with Lakin Drive, Barry (near the community centre). Leckwith Road, Leckwith near The Lodge. Broad Street, Barry near the One Stop Shop.

Road closure: Clive Road, Barry Island at the junction with the access road to Barry Island overflow car park. Solent Road, Barry.

Praise for western Vale Paramedic Pilot

AT a meeting with the head of operations for Cardiff and Vale Welsh Ambulance Service, Jane Hutt AM was told about the success of the western Vale Paramedic Pilot.

It covers Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Rhoose and other Vale villages, and is part of the response to bring down ambulance waiting times in the difficult to reach rural areas of the Vale.

Ms Hutt had worked closely with Coun Gwyn John and WAST to improve ambulance waiting times in the western Vale, and they were both delighted when "years of campaigning brought the dedicated rapid response paramedic service to Llantwit Major".

She added that they are following up plans to co-locate ambulance, police and fire services in Llantwit Major.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ED EVANS FOUNDATION BALL AND VALE WALK

IT is 10 years since the Ed Evans Foundation was set up, and a charity ball will be held at the Cardiff City football stadium on April 30.

Tickets cost £55 per person which includes a three course meal, wine on the table and dancing to Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band. For tickets, contact Sue on 01656 890217.

Ed started the charity in 2006 after being diagnosed with a brain tumour, raising £35,000 before he lost his battle in October 2007; to date, the foundation has raised £180,000 for Cancer Research Wales, The Brain Tumour Charity and other worthy causes.

The annual walk will take place on Easter Monday, March 28 starting from The Plough & Harrow, Monknash; registration takes place from 9.30am.

There will be a long walk and a short walk. Details are available on website www.edevansfoundation.co.uk or call 01656 890217.

VALE AM'S SURGERY

Vale AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery from 10-11am on Saturday, March 19, at Barry Citizens Advice Bureau 119 Broad Street CF62 7TZ; no appointment necessary.

Gladstone School pupils are very welcome guests

Pupils enjoy Welsh cakes, squash and a chat after their performance.

St David's Day guests – Hafod staff, and resident Jill welcomed colleagues from the Vale Council.

Martin Rees, vice chair, Hafod Care Board, thoroughly enjoyed the event.

A PROJECT that brings pupils from Gladstone Primary School together with residents from Golau Caredig extra care housing scheme in Barry, is delivering great benefits for all involved.

Pupils visit every Tuesday and last week, children from the reception classes were delighted to celebrate St David's Day with some of the residents along with guests from Hafod Care and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The children sang and performed traditional Welsh folk dancing for the residents who joined in with a rousing rendition of the national anthem. All enjoyed a chat and Welsh cakes afterwards. A fabulous collage of a Welsh dragon was created by the residents and children, who shared lots of fun and laughter over their scissors, paper and glue.

Sam Marks, the assistant head teacher, who accompanies the children each week.

She said: "The last few weeks have been wonderful. The visits are such happy times with lots of smiling and laughing. It is wonderful to see such a meaningful relationship being developed. Our children are benefitting greatly from the visits and the school would love to further develop this relationship in consultation with the residents' committee."

Irene Watkins, managing director of Hafod Care, is thrilledat.that the partnership is going so well. She said: "From the outset we wanted Golau Caredig to be part of the local community and these visits clearly bring such joy to all concerned. Our residents' committee and staff have developed a fantastic programme of events we are working with local providers to offer more activities and services that will benefit both our residents and local people."

In recognition of this the development scheme has been shortlisted for the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Awards 2016, Wales in the Community Benefit Category.

Coun Stuart Egan, Deputy Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council attended the St David's Day event and enjoyed a tour of the building along with colleagues from the council and Hafod.

He said: "I always receive a warm welcome when I visit Golau Caredig, and thoroughly enjoyed the St David's Day event. Since it opened last year, I have watched Golau Ceredig establish itself as a focal point of the community

"As Older Peoples' Champion for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, I see a real benefit for the residents, their families and the area as a whole, in continuing to establish such strong links to the local community."

WHAT'S ON /*In brief*

Paradise regained

A talk on the renovation of a unique water garden will be given on Wednesday, March 23, at 7.30pm, when Cowbridge Physic Garden welcomes Helen John, of the National Botanic Garden of Wales, to the St Quentin's Suite at the Bear Hotel, High Street, Cowbridge.

Helen will show how the five-year project to reconstruct this Regency treasure is progressing and the importance it has in the overall ecology of the garden. ***Tickets are available at the door, £5.***

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It's a Stitch-up at new exhibition!

ABOVE: *Jane Hutt AM opens the 'Barry In Stitches' exhibition.*

RECENTLY, a new exhibition opened at the Travellers' Gallery, Barry Station.

The exhibition, entitled, 'Barry in Stitches' has been set up by Barry Hookers crochet and craft group, who meet on a weekly basis at Coffee Cove coffee and wine bar, Barry Island.

The group has been running now for almost three years, and having outgrown its original venue at Barry library, now has 67 members.

The most recent work is a group effort, and consists of ideas about Barry from the group. It is worked in different ways including crochet, sewing, quilting, knitting and cross stitch.

The exhibition was opened by Vale AM Jane Hutt, who said: "I was delighted to open the Barry in Stitches exhibition at the Mind in the Vale Gallery, and to donate one of the beautiful canvases to MENCAP to support Barry project worker Sian Rodgers."

The other two canvases will be donated to Mind in the Vale who host the Travellers' Gallery in their cafe at Barry Station, and to the RNLI who will place it in their shop on Barry Island when the exhibition is over.

The craft group meets every Wednesday at Coffee Cove, and new members are always welcome.

Police concern at traffic in Dinas Powys

Mill Road, outside St Peter's Church.

LOCAL county councillors have welcomed an offer from the police to join them in their operations to reduce traffic speeds along Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

It follows complaints by residents and councillors about traffic dangers.

At the request of councillors, the Vale highways department recorded that, in less than an hour, there were 166 vehicles, all of which were seen to be free flowing. A total of 68 of them were recorded travelling in excess of the 30 mph limit, 10 of which were travelling above the Association of Chief Police Officers' threshold guidelines for prosecution.

Coun Keith Hatton said that Plaid Cymru councillors would be delighted to join the police along Mill Road.

He went on: "The police have been working with the highways department to assess the statistics relating to the speed of traffic. In a short early morning period a significant number of vehicles were driven above the speed that would trigger prosecutions."

Coun Val Hartrey said it was a serious issue and too many motorists were behaving irresponsibly. "We all know that some drivers like to speed along this route and then up Penyturnpike, especially at busy periods along Cardiff Road."

Apprentice Chloe making her mark!

TO celebrate National Apprenticeship Week (March 14 – 18), Arriva Trains Wales is this week highlighting the achievements of its young and talented apprentices who are seeking to gain industry-recognised qualifications with the business, including 18-year-old Chloe Thomas from Barry.

She was recruited into Arriva's engineering department on a four-year apprentice contract in September 2015. Chloe will now be training for an HNC in engineering and will qualify to become a craft interchangeable maintenance technician after her four-year-training.

She is also studying for a qualification in electrical engineering at Coleg y Cymoedd – as the only female engineer at Arriva's Canton maintenance depot.

"It was really daunting at first going into a workplace and profession that is considered male-dominant, but everyone made me feel welcome and gave me the chance to prove myself as a good worker," Chloe said.

"The apprenticeship with Arriva Trains Wales is my first full-time job. There's a lot to take in and learn but I'm enjoying every minute. One of the most enjoyable parts of the job is the varied nature of the work. Every day is different with another challenge to face."

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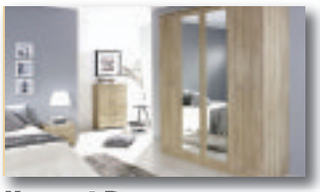
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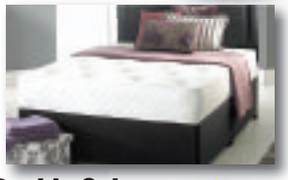
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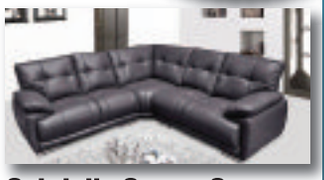
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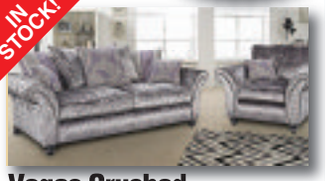
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Children's Commissioner helps Vale AM's spring breakfast to celebrate young people in the Vale

Spring Breakfast.

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, held her 17th spring breakfast in Barry on March 10 at the Cardiff and Vale College Glamorgan Suite, where Professor Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales, was the guest speaker – as this year's theme was young people.

She congratulated the Vale Youth Forum on their "excellent engagement in promoting youth participation in the Vale".

The AM added: "With representation from Barry Youth Action, Llantwit Major's Youth Council, the deputy Vale Youth Mayor, Mencap, Vale People First and St Richard Gwyn and Bryn Hafren school councils, this was a wonderful opportunity for young people to discuss their views with the Children's Commissioner.

"The breakfast was prepared and served by a fantastic student team from the college, who also raised funds for their chosen charities with a raffle.

"I would like to thank everyone who attended the spring breakfast and all those who made it such a significant event."

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Local children learn that science can be fun at Dow Corning, Barry

DURING British Science Week, the Dow Corning site at Barry organised science activities for 250 children from eight local primary schools.

From March 7-10, these nine and ten year olds participated in memorable hands-on science experiments, encouraging them to learn about the fun side of science.

Each year since 1997, more than 200 local schoolchildren converge on the Dow Corning site in Barry in the Vale for a week of specialised learning where they had the opportunity to become 'scientists for the day,' as part of Dow Corning's participation in British Science Week in the United Kingdom. The aim of these activities is to encourage more children into science careers by giving them a love for science while still in primary school.

The scientific discovery this year centered on handmade products for the bath. The children were introduced to chemistry as they learned how to mix solid and liquid chemicals to create bath bombs and bubble bath. Each pupil was able to make his/her own choice of scents and colours for a uniquely fragranced bubble bath, which they then took home in a bottle they decorated themselves.

The programme remains a focal point in the schools' calendar and this year had support from the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Fred Johnson, who joined in the fun with the local Cadoxton Primary School.

'Make better use of beach huts' – *Plaid call*

Left to right, Couns Nic Hodges, Shirley Hodges, Ian Johnson and Steffan Wiliam.

SCHOOLS should have beach hut access to teach local children about Barry's coastline heritage, say Plaid Cymru councillors for Barry Island, Nic Hodges and Steffan Wiliam.

They have called for better use of the Barry Island beach huts and a business plan to "ensure maximum use and value for money from the investment".

Both councillors spoke at the Vale Council's economy and environment committee which looked at the first year of operation since the beach huts were opened for hire in spring 2015.

They stated that in the first year of operation, the busiest month for beach hut hires was August, when they were hired for a total of 136 days – about 20 per cent of the total capacity. However, in the months of November and February, not a single beach hut was hired to the public.

Coun Steffan Wiliam said: "There needs to be a proper business plan for the beach huts. We have to make it as easy as possible for people to book and gain access to the huts – whether by cash or by app on their smartphone.

"The beach huts should have proper facilities – light, electricity and water.

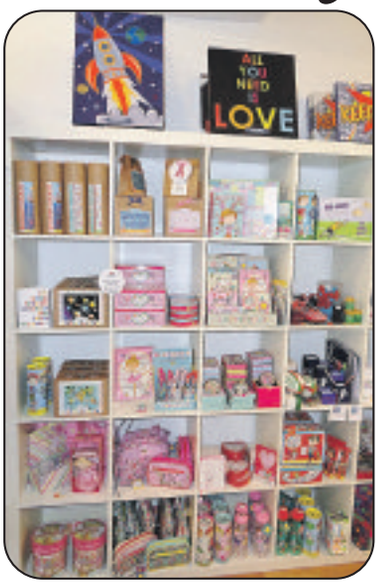
Coun Nic Hodges said: "The beach huts are a clearly iconic part of Barry Island, well photographed and seen all over social media, but I worry that we have missed the opportunity and novelty of the beach huts to reach new audiences and bring them to Barry Island."

THRIFT SHOP CLOSING

THRIFT Shop in St Athan will close for Easter at 1.30pm on Wednesday, March 23 and reopen at 10am on Monday, April 11. We wish all our customers a very Happy Easter.

Spring Cowbridge Feature

Spring is on the way... and Cowbridge is ready to welcome the new season



ABOVE: Just some of the wide range of stock at The Pencil Case in Eastgate.

LEFT: The Physic garden is one of the town's most popular places to visit – either to learn more about the medicinal plants, or simply to relax and take a break!

SPRING is almost here – although given the unpredictable weather of the last six months it is best to say that with a degree of caution.

It does, however, look as if the long season of mild but very stormy weather has moved on, and optimistic sunshine is finally drying out those sodden lawns.

The arrival of a new season finds traders in Cowbridge revved up ready to go, with new product lines and old favourites on the shelf, ready to keep the customer satisfied.

The town's virtues are pretty constant, and visitors can, as usual, enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, and the wide variety of shops – many on the High Street and many more tucked away in the nooks and crannies of the various idiosyncratic side streets.

One of Cowbridge's big plus points has always been the high proportion of owner-managed businesses, with the shopkeeper being directly responsible for sourcing the stock, rather than just ticking the boxes imposed from head office.

It means that shoppers who want to find something different can find a soulmate on the other side of the counter!

Of course, shopping is more than just filling the carrier bags and heading home. Everyone needs a relaxing break – whether that be a coffee, a drink, a snack or a meal – and Cowbridge has all the bases covered.

With its mix of cafes, traditional pubs, fashionable bars and restaurants, it will take a long time to run out of choice – and the keen competition does what competition is supposed to do – push up standards.

As a *bona fide* market town (the livestock market is still busy every Tuesday morning) Cowbridge caters for country dwellers and townies alike, and one place that is decidedly 'rural' is the Arthur John clothing store on the High Street.

Here you will find a wide range of stock, featuring two names that are synonymous with country living – Barbour and Joules.

The town has a strong sense of community, too, and some businesses relish their close ties with local people. One such is La Mercerie, in the Old Mason's Yard, where Jean Tait has a huge stock of yarn, patterns and everything you need when it comes to knitting and crocheting.

Jean invites experts in the field to run workshops and meet locals who are keen to learn new techniques, and the next one is on April 3, when Norwegian knitwear designer Anniken Allis will be holding a knitting course.

Another visitor coming soon, although details are still to be finalised, is Eirwen Godfrey, who runs the hand-dying company, KnitWitches.

Jean also has a regular local group who meet on a Wednesday evening (6pm to 8pm) to compare notes and share technical knowledge.

La Mercerie stocks a large range of yarns and patterns.

Just outside the town, on the road to Llantwit Major, is Forest Products, a business that is used to gearing itself up for the arrival of spring.

The manager, Richard Belby, said: "This year is slightly unusual, because it has been such a mild, wet winter that lawns are only now beginning to dry out.

"People haven't wanted to make a start on any projects because the ground was so wet. It's only now that people are ordering items like fence panels to repair the usual damage that winter storms bring about."

One line that is new this year at Forest Products is anti-slip decking – incorporating a 'gravel groove' to make things safer underfoot in wet weather.

The name 'Forest Products' does rather imply that they specialise in wood, and a popular line at this time of year are driveway gates, made to order in hard or soft wood.

Finally, another new line this year, one that Richard expects to be popular, is a range of timber planters.

A new season, new ideas and pet projects to make a start on. That's a good reason to head for Cowbridge.

Although, let's be fair. There's always a good reason to head off to this popular Vale town!

Forest Products
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Anti slip decking in convenient 2.4m lengths.

Fence panels and gates

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Crossways Estate, LLantwit Major Road, Cowbridge CF71 7LJ
Tel: 01446 773399
www.forest-products.co.uk
Head Office: Lightmoor Works, Cinderford Glos GL14 3HU (Mon-Fri only) Tel: 01594 822223

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Stockist of Sirdar, Debbie Bliss, Adriafil, Bergère de France, Rico and Navia yarns.

Hand dyed yarn from The Old Piggery.

Locally sourced yarn from Ty Mêl Smallholding.

• Wednesday afternoon & evening knitting club! • Full range of knitting accessories

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1 Penny Lane, COWBRIDGE
CF71 7EG - 01446 772055
Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm

Arthur John & Co
Ironmongers & Agricultural Supplies
North Road Stores Cowbridge CF71 7DF
Glamorgan Area : Ron Thorne 07977 413563
42 Enterprise Way Newport NP20 2AQ
Gwent Area : Baden Morgan 07970 119624

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Spring Cowbridge Feature

Cowbridge – THERE'S SO MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT ITS HISTORY

The recently restored plaque over the old river bridge.

AS you might expect from a town that can trace its history back to Roman times – there is so much to learn about Cowbridge.

The GEM asked Dick Buswell of the Cowbridge History Society to point out just a few points of interest that present-day browsers will come across if they take a closer look.....

How many towns do you know that:

• Has a river bridge parapet which carries a main road , but over no river?

• Has a church with a bell tower built for fortification?

• Has a mounting block in the High Street?

• Has a garden which grows plants for medicinal uses?

• Has a former grammar school which was designed by the architect who restored Llandaff Cathedral?

• Held prisoners from a French invasion near Fishguard, Pembrokeshire in 1797, on their way to London?

• Has a council chamber which was part of a former 'House of Correction' – i.e. a prison?

Cowbridge lies where the Romans' main road to the west crossed the River Thaw. Later, it was on the pilgrims' way to St David's and much later, it was on the coaching route from London to Fishguard and Ireland.

It has been for many centuries a market town and the place where Courts of Justice were held. Today, it still plays a prime role in servicing the rural Vale of Glamorgan with a wonderful variety of high-quality shops and restaurants and beautiful gardens in which to unwind.

If you would like to find the locations described above, the bridge parapet is opposite the Cowbridge Bookshop. Its stone plaque commemorating the inauguration of the bridge in 1911 is again legible, as it was recently restored by Cowbridge Charter Trust with funds provided by Cowbridge (ancient borough) with Llanblethian Town Council, the Waterloo Foundation, and by private donations.

It did once cross the river, but the river was moved in 1951!

The church is Holy Cross, and the mounting block can be found across the High Street from Sylvia Williams the Chemists, which is in the large double gabled property formerly 'The Great House' and the town house of the Carne Family of Nash Manor.

The Physic Garden has been planted to exemplify the healing and domestic plants that would have typically been used in former times.

The Cowbridge Grammar School was originally established in the early 1600s, but later rebuilt in 1847-52 by Pritchard.

Following an unsuccessful attempted invasion by the French near Carregwasted Point, during which eight Frenchmen drowned, 12 were killed, and one Welsh woman died in a pub when a pistol was accidentally fired, prisoners being taken to London were reputedly accommodated in The Bear.

The Town Hall was originally built as a 'House of Correction' in 1805. By 1829, a large new prison in Swansea had rendered it redundant. The building was converted by Isaiah Verity into today's Town Hall.

Cowbridge History Society celebrates on March 13 each year, the granting of the first town charter by Richard De Clare on March 13, 1274.

This year, the society marked the date with a visit to Llansannor Court, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Eddershaw, and to the adjacent medieval church of St Senwyr.

To find out more about the Cowbridge Local History Society, visit ***http://www.cowbridgehistorysociety.org***

ABOVE: Times long past in Cowbridge – when the river took a different course through the town

FLOORING THE COMPETITION!

SINCE opening in Cowbridge just over 18 months ago, Welsh flooring manufacturer, Broadleaf, has gone from strength-to-strength.

The showroom itself has been a great success, proving popular with professional and retail clients alike, for its extensive range of affordable, designer wood floors of all styles, and expert advice.

David Shewring, Broadleaf's Cowbridge showroom manager, explains: "Our customers are often amazed by the choice we can offer and how affordable a Broadleaf floor can be. Many are worried that buying a wood floor is quite technical, but soon realise that, with good expert advice, it is really quite simple."

With a reputation for innovation, it is not surprising that Broadleaf has a number of exciting new collections in the pipeline for 2016. These include a fabulous range of Smoked Oak floors in both plank and parquet options, a stunning collection of Versailles panels and trend-leading painted floors, with a choice of Little Green Paint Company and Farrow & Ball colours.

Visit the Broadleaf showroom at 71, Eastgate, Cowbridge to find out more.

Better than a chocolate egg!

WITH Easter fast approaching many of us will be looking to buy cards and gifts – and the Pencil Case on Eastgate is the ideal place to find something different.

"Many customers want to buy their children or grandchildren something special for Easter, and ideally something which will last longer than a chocolate egg!" owner Sally Stephenson told us.

"We have a fabulous selection of sensibly-priced gifts for children (and adults!) of all ages. Why not finish it off with an Easter-themed helium balloon and a Welsh or English 'Happy Easter' card?"

The Pencil Case can also help keep children entertained over the school holidays, whether at home or on a long journey. From colouring books, pens and pencils, to jigsaws, sticker books and art and craft supplies, you will be surprised just how many lovely things they now have in stock.

Sally said: "We are very excited about all the new products we have just had delivered, including the ever-popular Rachel Ellen range, brand new Top Model colouring books and lots of new stationery."

The Pencil Case is open from 9am – 5pm Monday to Saturday at 50 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7AB. 01446 772210, sally@thepencilcase.co.uk or www.thepencilcase.co.uk

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Stockist of:
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Outdoor Clothing • Ironmongery • Hardware • Cookware
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Beautiful Real Wood Floors, Doors & More
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ThePencilCaseCowbridge

Magical medical garden at the RHS Flower Show

TWO Bridgend schools are set to recreate an ancient Welsh legend in suitably floral fashion at this year's RHS Flower Show Cardiff, supported by Riviera Travel.

The 'Physicians of Myddfai's Magical Medical Garden' will feature at the RHS Flower show this year in Bute Park, Cardiff.

The intriguing 'Physicians of Myddfai's Magical Medical Garden' has been designed by pupils from Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell, along with their teacher, garden designer Anthea Guthrie.

The Carmarthenshire-based folklore tells of a dynasty of pioneering herbalists from the west Wales village of Myddfai who, from around the 13th century grew and prepared their own herbal medicine as a way of diagnosing diseases and curing the sick, leading some to believe they had magical powers.

This year's RHS Flower Show Cardiff will once again take place in Cardiff Castle's surrounding garden, Bute Park, between April 15-17.

The show will feature the replicated medieval herbal garden alongside other standout features including a Roald Dahl tribute *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* garden, complete with a bubbling chocolate lake, and an edible kitchen garden promoting healthy eating and encouraging people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

Set against the backdrop of an ancient ruin, Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell's cleverly designed garden will see botanical plants painted on the walls alongside trees, herbs and other ingredients found in the original

Physicians' recipe books including ash, bark, dried leaves, and even honey being made in the specially brought-in beehives.

A wellspring will take centre stage in the show garden to represent the pure water which was essential in the healing arts.

Although there are varying tales of the legend of Myddfai, in historical fact the original physician was Rhiwallon who, along with his three sons, Cadwgan, Griffith and Einon, was employed by a 13th century Welsh prince. The last of the line was John Jones, a surgeon, who died in 1739.

Welsh folklore and legend also tells of the three brothers receiving tuition in herbalism and the healing arts from their mother, a fairy known as the 'Lady of the Lake'. They, and the succeeding Physicians of Myddfai, created their own recipes which have been passed down through the ages to the present day.

Anthea said: "The garden is a thousand years old! Still to this day, the small village of Myddfai produces medical professionals.

"There are so many fascinating grown ingredients in the physicians' remedies; some outdated such as earwax from a dog and broad beans used to make a paste to hold the other ingredients together, and some that chime with modern medicine, such as willow leaves that contain the same painkiller as in aspirin.

"This project has been great fun for my pupils who have been involved in making the beehives, growing plants, helping build the garden on site, and perhaps more importantly, it has taught them about some of their wonderful Welsh heritage".

After the show, the garden will be deconstructed and replanted at Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell, ensuring the legend lives on.

For more information or to buy advance tickets for the RHS Flower Show Cardiff visit www.rhs.org.uk/cardiff.

School flies the flag

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Porthcawl Primary School first started their Eco journey ten years ago in 2006 and have successfully gained three green flags in this time. During this time, the Eco-Committee have created a nature garden, butterfly garden and allotment in the school grounds.

They have successfully (through a grant from Active Travel) created designated cycle paths around the school and a purpose-built bike shelter in the grounds.

They have been working to reduce the amount of energy, paper and water we use every day in school and have held several Eco whole school events to raise awareness of eco issues.

One of their biggest successes was taking part in the SMILE project (in conjunction with Bridgend College and IBRA – International Bee Research Association) whereby the school composed a song 'Bee Generation' about the plight of the bee.

This was professionally recorded and released in the iTunes chart to raise awareness of the importance of bees.

All money raised went to IBRA to support their work.

During the assessment, the Eco-Committee gave the assessor, Matthew Bunt, a presentation on this project, as well as a detailed tour around the school, highlighting the difference they have made.

Lidia (year-5 pupil) stated: "The best thing about being a member of the Eco-Committee is that we know we are making a difference to our school and our environment."

The Eco-Committee is currently undertaking a large whole school project of creating woodland areas in the school grounds. It is awaiting delivery of 420 free trees from The Woodland Trust and asking parents and other volunteers to get involved and help plant these trees in order for future pupils of the school to benefit in years to come.

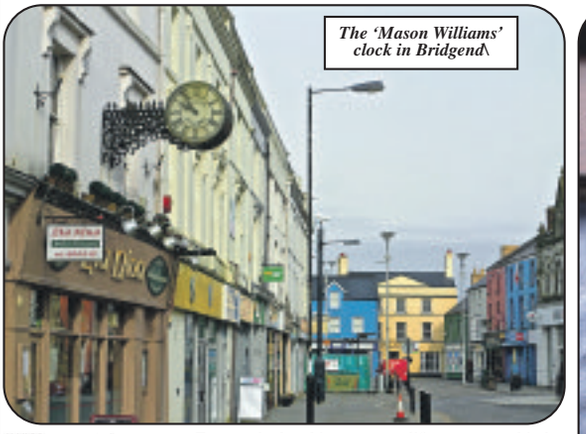
"Our eco work will continue and is a strong feature of the school. We are proud of all the achievements we have made over the last 10 years and the evidence provided to the assessor demonstrated this.

"We are looking forward to another 10-plus years of Eco-schools and making a difference for future generations", said Mrs. Loveluck.

Special cheque for school pupils...

Cefn Cribwr Primary School pupils with members of the Royal Antediluvian Order Of Buffalos, who donated a cheque for £100 towards specials needs fundraising.

How the Mason Williams clock changed hands...



The 'Mason Williams' clock in Bridgend

THE ornately bracketed clock in Dunraven Place, Bridgend, which now stands above the Italian restaurant Zia Nina, has always been known as the Mason Williams clock, taking its name from the jewellery business which occupied the premises for decades.

The clock is such a well-known landmark that it is easy to understand it was likely to have been the initial meeting point in town to have fostered many relationships; '*Meet you under the Mason Williams clock'* it might have been, but in reality the clock would have predated Mason Williams by some 50 years.

Mason Williams were believed to have acquired the business during the early to mid-1930s, but a clock and jewellery business had been established at 28 Dunraven Place as early as 1865 by Leander Beha, a descendant of a well respected Black Forrest clockmaking family.

Leander, one of five children, came from Germany to Bridgend aged 17 in 1857, and took lodgings at 71 Nolton Street, and as young as he was, rapidly built up a good local reputation as a clock and watch repairer.

His elder brother, Maximillian, also came to south Wales and lodged with the Furtwangler clockmaking family in Llanelli. It appears that one of Leander's first commissions at Dunraven Place was the supply of a clock in 1866 for £16-7s-3d to the then recently opened Angelton hospital, and his business must have flourished from there.

He married Catherine Cragoe, the daughter of the owner of the Wyndham Hotel opposite his shop in 1876, and a son was born 15 months later, but only lived for a few weeks and just over a year later his wife also died, aged only 31.

During his short marriage, the floods of 1877 resulted in significant damage to his premises and stock, so life was not so kind to Leander.

It is believed that shortly after this, he was joined in the business by Edmund Needham, and it was a little later that Leander had the clock installed which we all now call the Mason Williams clock, but, of course, should call the Leander Beha clock.

Leander died in 1899, aged just 59, without any descendants, and since all his siblings had predeceased him, his estate, valued at around £1.25 million in today's money, was left to his late sister's husband, Albert Dold.

German-born Albert and his brother Edward became partners with Needham, and the business traded as L Beha & Co until 1914, but at the outbreak of World War One, the Dold brothers were forced to quit the business and Needham called to defend his Monmouthshire, rather than his rumoured, German roots.

From that point, the business became known as E M Needham Jewellers and continued to trade under that name until the 1930s, when Needham, then in his 70s, appears to have sold the business to Mason Williams.

Through all this change, the clock remained a fixture above the shop and presumably Beha's name on the face was eventually changed to Mason Williams.

As much as is known about the pre-Mason Williams era, little is yet know about this business name and any information on it would be much appreciated.

Throughout the LBeha, LBeha & Co–E M Needham era, an offshoot business existed at 12a Station Road, Port Talbot, but nothing has yet been found about this.

As for the clock itself, it is reputed to have been supplied by Smiths of London, and is still serviced by an associated company, but is now driven by a sophisticated electrical device.

The word 'reputed' is used since an outwardly identical clock still exists above the old Bakers The Jewellers in Gloucester, which has been attributed to a Bristol company run by the German Niehus Brothers, and since it is believed that the German clockmakers favoured trading with their fellow countrymen, is it possible that Beha's clock was also supplied by them?

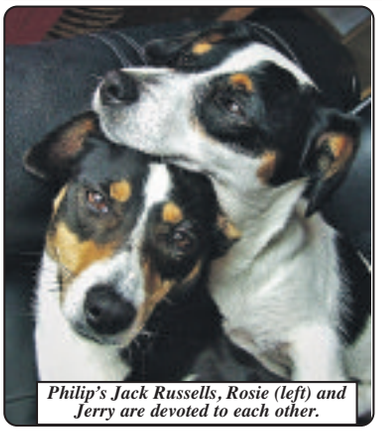
Fortunately, the name Beha lives on, I have recently acquired a c1880 German movement drop dial wall clock inscribed L Beha Bridgend, and a 1893 pocket watch.

Researching the background history has been very enlightening, but as always, leaves gaps. It would be great to hear from anyone who might be able to add to what I have already found.

My thanks to Alan Bateman of Bridgend Past Present and Future (www.bridgendppf.com) for his initial research and to Phil Jones for his invaluable genealogy assistance.

GARETH JONES

BEST FRIENDS WE WOULD NEVER BE WITHOUT – READERS' PRECIOUS PETS



Philip's Jack Russells, Rosie (left) and Jerry are devoted to each other.

Sadie's loving little gang Buddy, Molly and Lola.

Ozzy and Dado – butter wouldn't melt...!

LAST week The GEM reported that national pet month – April 1 to May 2 – was on its way. The campaign is to highlight responsible animal ownership.

We also asked GEM readers to send in pictures of their star pets and here they are! (*KEEP THEM COMING...*)

Lily's King Charles Spaniels Millie and Pippa having a rest after walkies at Dunraven Bay.

Jane's dog Magic doing a 'High Five'!

Steve and Carol's dog Megan enjoying a sunny day in Llanblethian.

Samantha's Havana and Oriental Lilac cats.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 1) ORDER 2016

1. On the 15th March 2016 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:

2. The Order will come into operation on 21st March 2016 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are in place and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 1) Order 2016"

3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 21st March 2016 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE

Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time'

Penarth Portway Penarth – Map AI 64 AH64

On its southern end, adjacent to the southern boundary of 'The Meridian' in a northerly direction for 32 metres on both sides of the road.

On the west side of the road, approximately 20 metres north of the above restriction, in a northerly direction for a distance of 12 metres.

On its northern end from its junction with Llwyn Passat, on its western side for 20 metres around the junction and on its eastern side for 16 metres around the junction.

Redlands Avenue Penarth – Map AJ62

On both north and south sides of the junction with Redlands Avenue, approximately 10 metres in a westerly direction.

Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys – Map AL58

On the north-western side, opposite the northern boundary of number 10 Highwalls Road, in a north westerly direction for a distance of 23 metres.

On the north-eastern side, from the common boundary of numbers 6 and 8 Highwalls Road, in a north westerly direction for a distance of 25 metres.

Mill Road, Dinas Powys – Map AL58 AL59

On the south-eastern side of Mill Road, from a point 20 metres north-east of its junction with Elm Grove Road and contiguous with the existing no waiting at any time restriction, north-eastwards to its junction with Mill Close, a distance of 38 metres.

On the south-western side of Mill Road, from a point 24 metres north-east of its junction with The Square and Elm Grove Road, contiguous with the existing no waiting at any time restriction, north-eastwards for a distance of 40 metres.

Brookside Dinas Powys – Map AK60

At its junction with Cardiff Road, in a southerly direction for a distance of 20 metres on both sides of the junction.

Unnamed junction south of Denys Close Dinas Powys – Map AK60

On the western side just south of Denys Close, for a distance of approximately 20 metres, contiguous with the existing restriction at its junction with Cardiff Road.

Dated this 17th day of March 2016.

M. E. Punter
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2016

GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 1) (GWAHARDD MANNAU AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Ar 15 Mawrth 2016, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53, a 124 a Rhan IV o Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith wedi'i disgrifio isod:2.

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 21 Mawrth 2016 neu bryd bynnag y bydd yr holl arwyddion a marciau ffordd yn barod. Fe'i hadwaenir fel 'Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygio) (Rhif 1) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2016'.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r cynllun sy'n dangos y mannau y bydd y Gorchymyn yn effeithio arnynt, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

4. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 21 Mawrth 2016 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2013.

ATODLEN

Cynigiwyd 'Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg' yn y mannau hyn

Penarth Portway, Penarth – Map AI 64 AH64

Ar ei phen deheuol, wrth ymyl terfyn deheuol 'The Meridian' am 32 medr ar ddwy ochr yr heol i gyfeiriad y gogledd.

Ar ochr orllewinol yr heol sydd oddeutu 20 medr i'r gogledd o'r cyfyngiad uchod, am 12 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd.

Ar ben gogleddol yr heol, o'r gyffordd â Llwyn Passat am 20 medr o amgylch y gyffordd honno ar ei hochr orllewinol, ac am 16 medr o amgylch y gyffordd ar ei hochr ddwyreiniol.

Redlands Avenue, Penarth – Map AJ62

Ar ochrau gogleddol a deheuol y gyffordd â Redlands Avenue, am oddeutu 10 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys – Map AL58

Ar yr ochr ogledd-orllewinol, gyferbyn â therfyn gogleddol rhif 10 Highwalls Road, am 23 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o gyd-derfyn eiddo rhifau 6 ac 8 Highwalls Road, am 25 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Mill Road, Dinas Powys – Map AL58 AL59

Ar ochr dde-ddwyreiniol Mill Road, o fan sy'n 20 medr i'r gogledd ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â Elm Grove Road, ac yn cydgyffwrdd â'r cyfyngiad presennol sy'n gwahardd aros ar unrhyw adeg, am 38 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain hyd at y gyffordd â Mill Close.

Ar ochr dde-orllewinol Mill Road, o fan sy'n 24 medr i'r gogledd ddwyrain o'r gyffordd â The Square a Elm Grove Road, ac yn cydgyffwrdd â'r cyfyngiad presennol sy'n gwahardd aros ar unrhyw adeg, am 40 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Brookside, Dinas Powys – Map AK60

Ar y gyffordd â Heol Caerdydd am 20 medr ar ddwy ochr y gyffordd i gyfeiriad y de.

Cyffordd ddienw i'r de o Denys Close, Dinas Powys – Map AK60

Ar yr ochr orllewinol, fymryn i'r de o Denys Close, am ryw 20 medr gan gydgyffwrdd â'r cyfyngiad presennol ar y gyffordd â Heol Caerdydd.

Dyddiedig 17 Mawrth 2016

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau'r Amgylchedd a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 23 March 2016

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

BUTTLEE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1101708
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom flat
- First floor – no lift
- Step-in shower
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £98.86 per week

CLOS PEIRIANT, BARRY

H4U Reference 126311
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £85.15 per week

CWM PARC, BARRY

H4U Reference 229929
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom first floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £108.99 per week including alarm, warden and water charges

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 126440
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £105.05 per week including service charge

GRAYBURN HOUSE, BARRY

Subject to local lettings policy

H4U Reference 126438
Suit. for applicants over 40 meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
No children under 16 or pets
- Two-bed ground floor flat
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal door and parking

Rent £101.70 per week including service charge

HANOVER COURT, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 1023821
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 (50 with medical need)
- One–bed ground floor flat
- Level access shower
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Alarm

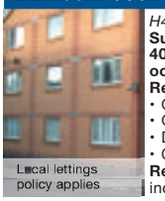
Rent £93.27 per week

HARLECH GARDENS, BARRY

H4U Reference 211166
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 with a medical priority
- One-bed ground floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £95.03 per week inc. water and alarm charges

LIDDICOAT COURT, BARRY



Local lettings policy applies

H4U Reference 1034873
Suit. for applicants over 40 meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
References required
- One-bed second floor flat
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal door

Rent £87.53 per week including service charge

LITTLE DOCK STREET, PENARTH

H4U Reference 240973
Suitable for a single person
- Studio apartment
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Water meter

Rent £79.08 per week

LONGMEADOW COURT, COWBRIDGE

H4U Reference 230289
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor with lift
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and community alarm

Rent £118.34 per week inc. water and alarm charge

MERTHYR STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 126426
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £84.01 per week including service charge

OWENS CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 218815
Suit. for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement – no pets
- Two-bed first floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Water meter

Rent £77.96 per week including water charges

PHILLIPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

Priority to tenants with medical need

H4U Reference 110269
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Level access shower
- Communal door/parking

Rent £114.08 p.w. inc. service charge and water rates

REDLANDS HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243717
Suitable for a single person over 60 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £117.13 per week inc. warden and water charges

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243456
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 with medical priority – no pets
- One-bed ground floor flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and community alarm

Rent £110.39 p.w. inc. alarm warden and water charges

ST CATHERINES COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 224589
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £104.98 per week including water charges

Expressions of interest

Aspire2Own

EDEN BROOK, YSTRADOWEN

United Welsh Housing Association, together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announces the new development of 11 properties in Llandough.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members with either a local work, family or life connection to Ystradowen as the local lettings policy applies to this scheme.

The development will consist of:

- six, one-bedroom flats; three ground and three first floor (rent £75.58 with a service charge yet to be confirmed);
- four, two-bedroom houses (rent £96.26 with a service charge yet to be confirmed);
- one, three-bedroom house (rent £97.89 with a service charge yet to be confirmed.

LOW COST HOME OWNERSHIP – ST LYTHANS PARK

Two, two-bedroom houses are available St Lythans Park, Culverhouse Cross through United Welsh Housing Association.

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The open market value of the homes is £170,000 and we are selling at 70% of this which is £119,000.

For further information, contact 01446 700111 and ask for Aspire2Own or e-mail housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view Immediately Available Homes
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
Newydd is a charitable housing association.

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THE STORY BEHIND THE PENARTH HISTORY DVD

IT took almost 12 months to produce *The Garden by the Sea – A Story of Penarth*, from the moment when research began in April 2015 to the completion of the sound edit in early March 2016 – just in time for its official release at the AGM of the Friends of St Peter's (the church in Old Cogan) on March 5.

The result is a 49-minute documentary that is proving highly popular in the town.

Producer Anthony Hontoir, who runs Porthcawl-based Downwood Film Productions, explains: "Most towns have quite a complex history and Penarth is no different.

"My aim was to tell its story from the main essentials of its past, and to let the narrative flow easily by taking the viewer on a leisurely tour through the locality, combining present day scenes, which I shot in and around Penarth from last spring until early autumn, mixed with old photographs and movie footage from the past.

"In respect of that last point, I had a real stroke of luck when an appeal in the local press brought a response from James Barnett, living in France, who grew up in Penarth and whose mother, one of the Leons, a wealthy ship-owning family, had taken a lot of movie footage in the 1930s.

"James came over on a family visit last September and brought around 100 rolls of 16mm film for me to look through. I was able to extract some really fascinating glimpses into the lives of his family all those years ago, and although much of it was concerned with life at the family's home in Park Road, there were also scenes shot on the seafront, and I included them in the finished film."

Anthony was pleased that townspeople and institutions cooperated to allow him to film in various locations, including the iconic pier and Pier Pavilion, and he was able to shoot a high-angle view of the pier from the roof of Seabank apartments, which also gave him a bird's eye view of The Kymin nearby.

One highlight of the film is the Penarth Yacht Club's Regatta last June, when, in addition to filming the preparation of the sailing dinghies on the beach, he was given access to one of the club's rescue boats to show several of the craft setting out for the starting line some distance out in the channel, and this gave a perspective of the promenade that many of Penarth's residents will never have experienced for themselves.

Photograph courtesy of Jayne Thomas Parker.

"The thing that was uppermost in my mind," says Anthony, "is that the camera should go to places and look at subjects which people are probably very familiar with, but have never given them their full attention; and this is why, I believe, films of this sort are so important – because they create interest in everyday surroundings. It should be remembered that scenes shot in the present will be history themselves in not too many years."

DVD copies are on sale at £9.95 each and can be purchased from AB Snell newsagents, Stanwell Road; Griffin Books in Windsor Road, and Umpa Lumpa sweetshop in Windsor Arcade.

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- Would make an ideal first purchase/family home
- Offered freehold

£112,000

TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY
- Two bedroom mid terrace property
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- Offered freehold

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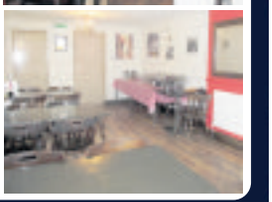

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- Three bedroom semi detached property with driveway
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- Offered freehold with no onward chain

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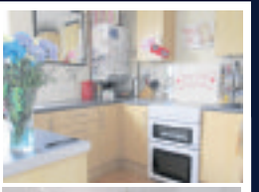

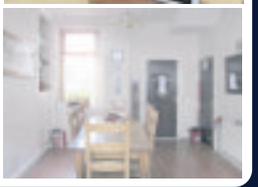

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- NO CHAIN

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SSTC

- Converted chapel
- 4 bed detached
- 3 reception rooms
- Backing onto farmland

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THE SYCAMORES, LLYSWORNEY

- Detached character cottage
- 4 bedrooms
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- Large gardens

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BADGERS BROOK CLOSE, YSTRADOWEN
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- 3 bed semi
- No chain
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SSTC

- Spacious semi detached house
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- 2 reception rooms
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EWENNY ROAD, BRIDGEND

- Traditional semi detached house
- 3 bedrooms
- Extended and improved
- Well regarded location

£215,000

MACKWORTH STREET, BRIDGEND

- Mid-terrace property
- 3 bedrooms
- Private garden to rear
- On street parking

£105,000

CEFN FARM, BRIDGEND
SSTC

- Detached character cottage
- 3 double bedrooms
- 4 acres of pasture land
- Stable block

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IVY COTTAGE, GILESTON

- Detached traditional cottage
- 2 double bedrooms
- Views across to Devon Coastline
- Garage and ample parking

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PENYLAN COURT, ST BRIDES MAJOR

- 4 bed detached property
- 3 reception rooms
- Detached garage
- Rear garden with open views

£400,000

RINGWOOD CRESCENT, ST ATHAN
SSTC

- Detached house
- 6 bedrooms
- Large garden
- Twin garage

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CLOS FFAWYDDEN, YSTRADOWEN

- 4 bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Detached double garage
- Large rear garden

£410,000

Land

LAND AT OLD CASTLE, LLANGAIN

- 34 acres agricultural land
- Useful farm buildings
- Equestrian potential
- Caravan for residential purposes

£250,000

COWBRIDGE ROAD, TALYGARN

- 115.5 acres in total
- Ring fenced

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TYLCHA FACH TERRACE, COED ELY

- Located to rear of semi-detached houses
- Approximately 0.1 acre

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LAND AT WATERTON LANE

- Development land
- Extending to c.1.1 acres
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Ath defeated by Narberth RFC

BRIDGEND Athletic RFC and Narberth RFC had battled to a 10-10 at Newbridge Fields the previous Saturday, with Bridgend Athletic having finished the stronger and just missing an opportunity to snatch the win with the last kick of the game.

This week was likely to prove a more difficult proposition as the Otters are a formidable force at home and the Ath's front row crisis deepened when big loose-head Matt Muir withdrew on Thursday due to a training injury inflicted by teammate Zach Evans, following hooker Nathan Holman's injury the previous Saturday.

Luckily, Maesteg prop Jack Powell stepped in on permit and young hooker Rhydian Jenkins was recalled from Carmarthen Quins, with the experienced but recently inactive Lewis Davies coming on to the bench as cover.

In fine conditions the match kicked off with Narberth taking control in the early stages with some astute kicking pinning the visitors back in their own half.

Soon the Athletic infringed and Narberth's Ianto Griffiths put the penalty kick through the posts to give his team an early three-point advantage.

Bridgend Athletic soon surged into home territory and pressed for a try which did not materialise.

In fact, it was Narberth who broke away and a kick ahead was cleared over the dead-ball line to deny a try.

The Ath's problems were multiplied as the resulting scrum collapsed with prop Wayne Fooks suffering a severe and painful dislocation of his ankle.

After a long delay for medical attention the game resumed and the visitors repelled the attacking scrum and moved upfield, only for a penalty to be given away allowing Ianto Griffiths to score his second penalty.

Bridgend Athletic again pressurised Narberth with the back row of Sean Williams, Ben Howe and Stu Edbrooke to the forefront but the rest of the pack were working manfully against their bigger opponents as they were driven forward by cheeky scrum-half Jakob Williams.

Once again Narberth withstood the tide and when they attacked before half-time a half-break and offload to Olly Ryland put the centre over for a try that Griffiths converted to give the home team a 13-0 lead at half-time.

As the second half developed it was the Athletic who were having the best of it.

When Narberth kicked loosely full-back Dan Howells counter-attacked by linking with Lewis Evans.

When he was challenged he passed to the perpetual motion machine that is Ben Howe, who raced over for a try to reduce the deficit.

The visitors were now having the better of the game and two Lewis Evans penalties brought them to within two points of Narberth.

It was the home team that would have the final word though.

Straight forward passing along the line from a lineout on half-way allowed speedy wing Johnny Morgan to get on the outside of despairing tackles and run in for a try easily converted by Griffiths.

There was no coming back for the Athletic who had to travel home without even the consolation of a losing bonus point, the final score 20-11.

The coaches were able to praise the effort of the many young players and those helping out despite their disappointment at the result.

More concerning is the injury to Athletic stalwart Wayne Fooks. All at Bridgend Athletic wish him a speedy recovery and send our very best regards for his predicament.

MD

The fighters from Bridgend Warriors.

Sports impress on trip to the Vale

IT was a trip to the Vale of Glamorgan last Sunday for the Bridgend Sports under-10s.

The sun shone and the perfect conditions allowed both teams to play some expansive rugby. The teams enjoyed themselves and provided the onlooking parents with a reason to be cheerful, after the disappointment of the previous day's proceedings at Twickenham.

The game was expected to be a round robin event but turned out to be a game between the two clubs. Both clubs therefore decided to play four 10 minute periods to ensure all players in their squads took the field.

It was the Sports who got off to a flyer in the first period as they ran in seven unanswered tries. The team combined their flowing attacking game with an eagerness in defence in this first period.

Llantwit Major failed to grapple with the positive away team's start. Joel Rogers grabbed a hat trick with Cian John, Thomas Coles, Thomas Chick and Morgan Edwards all claiming a try each. Harri Williams also converted six of the seven tries.

It was particularly pleasing to see the young Sports players starting to adapt their game by competing in the ruck area to turn over ball and whenever the ball was moved, each player showed great awareness of the supporting players to ensure the ball was moved along the line and then back again whenever play broke down.

This allowed players with pace to exploit freedom in the outside channels to score.

Seven tries to the good going into the second period was useful, but reality soon set in for the Sports as Llantwit Major found some confidence to attack early in the period. They attacked with pace to score first as Dylan Brown was put into a gap and made no mistake as the Sports defenders failed to place a hand on him.

The Sports hit back immediately from the restart; a run from Harri Williams took ball into a ruck, possession was retained and the ball passed on to Callum Lewis who timed a pass to perfection to put Dewi Worrall into space.

He was held up 10 metres out close to the touchline, but the ball was recycled again for Cadan Hayes to run at the Llantwit defence before passing on to Tom Coles and then onto Cian John, who sprinted in to score in the corner.

Llantwit were determined to compete and the ruck area began to be a bit of a problem for the Sports as the home team's confidence grew.

The Sports were forced to defend for a short period with Harri Williams, Callum Lewis, Mason Balmer and Tom Coles making good tackles to keep Llantwit Major at bay.

Their efforts kept Llantwit out and eventually forced an error from the home team.

From the scrum, Joel Rogers initially made good ground before handing on to Mackenzie Dent who powered over the gain line before the ball was moved to Cian John on the wing to race in for his second try of the period and his third of the game.

Llantwit Major fought back again as Dafydd Morgan raced down the touchline from within his own half to score at the opposite end for the second period to end 2-2, the Sports leading 9-2 overall.

The Sports worked harder as a team in the third period with more players registering on the tackle count with Iestyn John, Joel Rogers, Tyler Burton and Callum Lewis to the fore.

The pressure told on the home team again, as Bridgend Sports ran in a further four tries. Joel Rogers scored two followed by tries for Mackenzie Dent and Dewi Worrall, who deserved the reward for their efforts throughout the game.

Leading 13-2 into the final period, the Sports added two further tries through a sixth try for Joel Rogers and a second for Morgan Edwards before Rowan Taylor registered the final score of the game for Llantwit Major as he sliced his way through a tired Sports defence from 10 metres out to make the final score three tries to 15 tries to Bridgend Sports.

Llantwit converted two of their tries and the Sports converted 14 through Callum Lewis, Harri Williams and Ieuan Pilliner.

Both sides had contributed to a highly entertaining game, played in excellent spirit, well refereed and the entertainment greatly appreciated by all players and parents.

This week the Sports face a stern challenge as they face Kenfig Hill at home.

Squad: Cadan Hayes, Callum Lewis, Cian John, Dewi Worrall, Harri Williams, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Jodie Keane, Joel Rogers, Mackenzie Dent, Mason Balmer, Morgan Edwards, Thomas Chick, Thomas Coles, Tyler Burton.

SP

The Welsh Rumble a massive success!

Action from the Welsh Rumble.

BRIDGEND Warriors kickboxing and fitness club recently hosted the fifth Welsh Kick Boxing Union (WKU) Welsh Rumble at Warriors gym, above Sax nightclub, Derwen Road, Bridgend on Sunday, March 6.

The Welsh Rumble is a popular local fight event which is gaining increased interest on the fighting circuit.

Around 500 fighters, coaches, referees and supporters from 14 martial arts clubs travelled to the event from all across south Wales.

WKU worked in partnership with Sax night club to provide hospitality and refreshments.

The Welsh Rumble was considered a great success, the club accommodated the large crowd professionally and without incident.

All who attended agreed that the event was enjoyable, well run and that they would be happy to support future Welsh Rumble events.

There was an approximate total of 500 fights throughout the day consisting of junior and adult points and continuous kickboxing.

Local fighters who were successful in their categories include Kelsey Crow, who won gold in her points category, and Claire Vicker, senior instructor and third degree black belt, won gold in her light, continuous category.

Bridgend Warriors is an established kickboxing club that works within the local community to support and encourage people of all ages, ethnicity and gender to participate in the sport.

Classes are available on a pay as you train basis and led by a team of professionally qualified WKU instructors.

Participants can train for competition, grading pathways or simply for general fitness.

As well as kickboxing, the club also provides classes in general fitness and well-being, kettlebells and weights - there is even a weekly contemporary dance class!

Jeff Copp (seventh degree black belt) is the head instructor at Bridgend Warriors, the founder of WKU and recently appointed Welsh representative secretary for World Karate & Kickboxing Council (WKC).

For more information about classes at the club, fighting events or kickboxing in general, visit www.kickboxingbridgend.co.uk or find the Bridgend Warriors on Facebook.

DA

Opening burst sees Pencoed youth defeat Kenfig Hill

THE opening quarter of this Ospreys OA League match at Croft Goch between Kenfig Hill youth and Pencoed youth was to determine the eventual outcome, Pencoed scoring 17 points without reply during this period.

Pencoed opened the scoring after a minute with Jacob Lloyd kicking a penalty goal. Soon after a 20 metre rolling maul from the Pencoed pack took play deep into the home 22 and recycled possession saw half backs Calum Palmer and Cameron Fyvie Davies handle before full back Josh Raikes came onto the pass at pace to split the home midfield and score halfway out; Lloyd converted.

Pencoed then quickly added a second try, second row Dan Watkins breaking clear from around his own 22 for some 40 metres and from the resultant breakdown swift hands from several players in midfield saw right wing Chris Cooper race in at the opposite corner, Lloyd adding a fine conversion for Pencoed to lead 0-17 after 20 minutes.

In contrast, the remainder of the half belonged to the home side, and following a number of chances scrum half Jack Briggs took a quick tap penalty to score at the posts before adding the conversion.

The young Mules were now winning more possession and despite enjoying territorial advantage approaching the interval, found themselves 10 points adrift at the break.

Pencoed were the first to threaten in the second half, No8 Tom Williams, Palmer and Raikes combining well down the blindside deep in the home 22, before Kenfig Hill did well under pressure to turn possession over metres from their own line.

With the set scrums now passive the second half seemed to degenerate a little, though both sides could not be faulted for their efforts.

Going into the final 10 minutes, and following sustained pressure in the Pencoed 22, Briggs added a penalty to keep his sides hopes alive at 10-17.

Territory was now important to both sides going into the final minutes and Pencoed skipper Liam Parrish did well to charge down a kick to keep play in the home half and Pencoed swept play into the Mules' 22, and following a number of driving runs from Williams off the now-stationary scrums, the No8 then released replacement scrum half Jamie Hemming, who darted over to seal the match.

Pencoed and Carmarthen Quins agreed to play nine and 10-a-side games at under-15 and under-18 age levels respectively.

The pacey Quins won the under-15 match, the result somewhat secondary as the home side had sportingly given their visitors three players for the match to go ahead and further the development of the players of both clubs in a match situation.

The under-18s were just pipped, 45-44, by the Quins. This was a thriller from start to finish, with a feast of tries in spring-like conditions at the Recreation Ground.

Despite coming back from a 27-38 deficit going into the final 10 minutes and scoring three tries to lead 44-38 with four minutes left on the clock, Phoenix conceded a last phase of play try with the conversion settling their fate.

Having outscored their visitors by eight tries to seven, Phoenix, having shown great character to come from behind, were extremely unlucky in defeat.

For Pencoed, outstanding scrum half Kayleigh Powell scored five tries and half back partner Megan Whittaker got a brace, with wing Megan Griffiths showing her pace with a 70 metre effort.

For a talented Quins side, which included several Scarlet regional players, flanker Beth Lewis was chosen by the Phoenix team as the visitors' best forward, with Carys Lloyd best back. The talented Powell was chosen by her opponents as the stand out Phoenix player.

On April 3, both Phoenix junior girls' teams venture over the Severn Bridge for friendly matches against their Gloucester opponents.

TR

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 2 ST ATHAN)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2016

The above order was made on 17th day of February 2016. The effect of the order will be to divert the public footpath running from a point on the western boundary of the new residential development (NGR 301313 168177) to the adopted highway, St Johns Hill (NGR 301543 168254) and create an alternative footpath on a line running from a point on the western boundary of the new residential development (NGR 301313 168177) to the adopted highway, St Johns Hill (NGR 301543 168254) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representation about or objection to the order may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 14th April 2016. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may itself confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 17th March 2016

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF 1990, ADRAN 257 A PHARAGRAFF 1 ATODLEN 14
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS 2 SAIN TATHAN)
GORCHYMYN DARGYFEIRIO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2016

Gwnaethpwyd y gorchymyn uchod ar 17 Chwefror 2016. Effaith y gorchymyn fydd dargyfeirio'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus, sy'n rhedeg o fan ar darfyn gorllewinol y datblygiad tai newydd (CGC 301313 168177) hyd at briffordd fabwysiedig, St Johns Hill (CGC 301543 168254), a chreu llwybr troed amgen ar hyd llinell sy'n rhedeg o fan ar darfyn gorllewinol y datblygiad tai newydd (CGC 301313 168177) hyd at briffordd fabwysiedig, St Johns Hill (NGR 301543 168254), fel y dangys map y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'u gosod, a chiawch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Gewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Gewch wneud sylwadau ar y gorchymyn neu'n wrthwyneba drwy anfon neu gyflwyno llythyr wedi'i gyfeiro at Bennaeth Adfywio a Chynllunio, Swyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 14 Ebrill 2016, a dylech nodi eich rheswmau dros wneud hynny.

Os nai ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law yn y ffordd briodol, neu os caiff y rhai a ddderbyniwyd ildio eu hynny'n ôl, bydd hawl i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg gadarnhau'r gorchymyn ei hun fel gorchymyn diwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau rese hynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon gyda'r gorchymyn.

Dyddiedig 17 Mawrth 2016

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(inc. Dog Waste Bins) **/ Handyman**

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Written applications, with references, giving past work experience, may be addressed to:
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The application has been made to:
VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Information about the application is available from the licensing authority, including the arrangements for viewing the details of the application.

Any of the following persons may make representations in writing to the licensing authority about the application:

* A person who lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities

* A person who has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities

* A person who represents someone in any of the above two categories.

Any representations must be made by the following date: 07/04/16

It is an offence under section 342 of the Gambling Act 2005 if a person, without reasonable excuse, gives to a licensing authority for a purpose connected with that Act information which is false or misleading.

Birthdays

To our caring grandson, nephew and cousin

Samuel Rowlands

Always happy to help anyone.

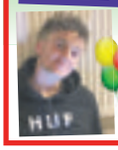
Have a lovely **18th** birthday on Sunday 20th March

18

All our love, Nanny & Grampy, Auntie Helen & Uncle Rob, Auntie Sian & Uncle Grant, Stephanie, Tasha & Lucy xxxxx

LUKE ALLISON

Happy 18th Birthday



on 22nd March

Wishing our favourite son a fabulous day!!!

All our love Mum, Dad and Nicole

Happy Birthday to Jean O'Brien

from family & friends on March 20th, 2016. xxx

Happy 18th Birthday

To My Wonderful Son

SAMUEL ROWLANDS

Hope you have an AMAZING *18th* on Sunday, 20th March, with all my love,

Mum and your best friend Buddy xxxx

Rebecca Jayne Rigby

Happy 18th Birthday

Have a fantastic day!

Lots of love from Dad, The John's, The Lynch-Wilson's, and The Powell's.

PS. Mum will be proud of you.

xxxxxxx

Samuel Rowlands

To our fab brother on your

18th Birthday

Have a blast!

20th March

All our love, Chlo, Josh, Jake & Matty xxxx

Samantha Miller

Happy Birthday

on March 21.

best wishes from your friends at the GEM

PAUL BRIGHT

Happy 50th Birthday

on the 20th March

All our love

Mel, Mook, Bear & Poppy xxx

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Family Notices

BULLER
Marian

Peacefully on March 5 at Holme Tower, Penarth, after an illness bravely borne, Marian of Llantwit Major, loving wife of Melvyn and devoted mother of Stephen.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, March 18, service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

FRAMPTON
Eileen Elizabeth (Betty)

Formerly of McQuade Place, Barry Island, died peacefully at Springbank Nursing Home on Friday, March 4. Beloved wife of the late Raymond and adored mother of Phillip and Marilyn. Cherished grandmother and much loved great grandmother.

Family funeral at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium on Monday, March 21 at 10am.

EVANS
Paula

Suddenly at home on March 6 - Paula, well known for her time at Tesco Penarth. Much loved mum of Shaun & Lauryn, respected mother-in-law to Rhianna and Kyle. Cherished Nanny Paula of Louie, Theo and Bailey.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Paula is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Colcot, Barry on Thursday, March 24 at 11am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only please - donations and personal tributes, if desired, may be made at the service or via Paula's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support Help For Heroes or The Breast Care Centre at Llandough Hospital.

SPENCE
Raymond

Suddenly on 10 March at U.H.W. Cardiff. Raymond (Ray), aged 90 years of Hazelhurst Nursing Home, Penarth, previously of Jewel Street, Barry. Beloved husband of the late May. A loved father of Ron, Ann and father-in-law of Sandy and Garry. Cherished grandfather of David, Garry, Michael, Christopher and loved great grandfather.

Ray will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, where flowers may be sent until the funeral on Thursday, 24 March. Service in the chapel at 1pm, afterwards cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 2pm.

DOWNING
Richard Lawrence

Peacefully on March 13 at UHW Cardiff, Dick of Cowbridge, beloved husband of Jean, dearly loved father of Julie and Ian, much love Grumpy of Megan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral on Thursday March 24, service and cremation 10.00am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Please wear blue.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Kidney Research UK, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

PEARCE
William

Funeral service on Wednesday, March 23 at 3.30pm at St Isan's Church, Llanishen, followed by Thornhill Crematorium. Family flowers only.

Donations to the charity of your choice.

BURFORD
Leslie

Peacefully on March 5 at his home in Llantwit Major, after a short illness bravely fought, Les, devoted husband of Valerie, dearly loved father of Simon, Andrew and Emily, much loved granddad of Callum and Joey, beloved son of Louie and the late Joseph, dear brother of Lorraine, Chris and Janie.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, March 22, service 11.45pm at St. Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Brain Tumour U.K. c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Acknowledgements

HERBERT
Marjorie

Marilyn and Ken would like to thank all family and friends who attended their mother's funeral, for the messages of sympathy and kind donations.

Thank you also to Eryl Surgery, especially to Dr Foreman and Dr Kavanagh; The Vale Care nurses from CRT, Matthew Williams social worker; staff at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre and W.A. Brown & Sons for their care.

THATCHER
Myrddyn William

Barbara and the boys would like to thank relatives and friends for their messages of sympathy, cards and flowers on the recent sad loss of a dear husband, father and grandfather.

They would also like to thank everyone who attended the funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium.

MULCOCK
Joseph Henley

Beryl, Nick and family wish to thank everyone who attended Joe's funeral.

Thanks also for the kind donations given in Joe's memory and for the many cards and letters we received, which brought us so much comfort at this sad time.

In Memory

'VEGGIE'

The way we were,
Sadly you're gone,
You were loved.

All my love Sue x and children Ben, Michelle, Richard, Chloe and Sion xxx

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ABTA

'Waterfront voting arrangements are better now' – Plaid

PLAID Cymru councillors have welcomed changes to polling stations so that Waterfront residents can vote closer to home in future.

The proposals, which will be in place from this May's Welsh Assembly election, now mean new polling stations for the Waterfront for residents of the Baruc, Buttrills and Castleland wards – all of which are part of the Waterfront.

Voters from the new housing estate by Asda are in the Baruc ward, while the estate south-west of Gladstone Bridge is in Buttrills.

Voters there will vote in a new station by the Premier Inn/Brewer's Fayre.

Castleland residents, east of Gladstone Bridge, will vote at the Docks Offices.

Baruc Plaid Cymru councillor Nic Hodges welcomed the proposals, which were confirmed by the Vale Council at a recent full council meeting.

He said: "New residents on the estate by Asda will be able to vote closer to home, rather than have to travel to the Island.

"With the continued delays over the Island road, that was supposed to have been completed last year, it makes sense for a new polling station on the Waterfront rather than expect voters to drive all of the way around town or walk up the Clive Road steps."

Coun Ian Johnson added: "For the past 15 years, Waterfront residents in Buttrills have had to go to either St Paul's Avenue, Gladstone School or Pioneer Hall on Beryl Road.

"Having a polling station on the Waterfront will make it easier for people to vote on the day and will hopefully increase participation in the democratic process."

Charity in call for improved palliative care for children

UK charity 'Together for Short Lives' has partnered with children's palliative care professionals and providers including Tŷ Hafan to call on the next Welsh Government to maintain momentum in improving palliative care for children with life-shortening conditions.

In Wales, there are currently estimated to be over 1,050 children and young people living with conditions that mean they may not survive into adulthood.

Many of these children have extremely complex and unpredictable conditions, requiring round the clock care, seven days a week.

MANIFESTO

Among the commitments called for in a new document are: a stronger children's palliative care workforce; fair and sustainable funding for children's palliative care services; and improved joint working between children's and adult's services for young people who are transitioning into adult care.

Dr Richard Hain, the consultant and clinical lead of the Wales Managed Clinical Network, helped to produce the new manifesto 'asks'.

Commenting on the new requests in the manifesto 'Together for Short Lives,' chief executive Barbara Gelb said: "The next Welsh Government has the opportunity to transform the lives of the 1,000 children and young people with life-shortening conditions across Wales. These children have complex and unpredictable conditions and rely on tailored care and support.

"24/7 children's palliative care is provided by the family and supported by regular short breaks and specialist care.

"It is vital that the next Welsh Government makes sure there is sustainable funding for children's palliative care and investment in the workforce to make sure there are enough highly-trained specialists to care for these children."

Jeremy Jackson, deputy chief executive of Tŷ Hafan, said: "Our eight manifesto 'asks' set out the steps that the next Welsh Government can take to significantly improve the lives of children with life-shortening conditions and their families. We would like parties to commit not just to additional funding and investment in the sector, but also to promote collaboration within Wales and with the rest of the UK to make sure that we learn from best practice."

It's all go for the children at PhillyBears!

PHILLYBEARS playgroup, held at 5th Barry Sea Scout Hall in Everard Street, Monday to Friday (9.15am to 12.15pm) and on Thursday and Friday afternoons, has had a busy time since January and has also celebrated its third birthday.

A spokeswoman explained: "This Chinese New Year (the year of the monkey) the children enjoyed making monkey masks.

"They tasted Chinese noodles and prawn crackers. They also tried on traditional Chinese clothes which one of the staff members brought back from a trip to China.

"In February, the children celebrated Valentine's Day by making cards for their loved ones.

"For Shrove Tuesday they enjoyed pancakes.

"To start the week on February 29, the children made Welsh cakes with Steve and then took them home for their parents.

"On March 1 there was time to celebrate St David's Day. The children dressed up in Welsh costumes, rugby shirts or in red or green. They also had the chance to make Welsh flags complete with dragon.

"March 3 was World Book Day and the children dressed up as their favourite book character.

"By Friday the staff were all exhausted but had plenty of energy to help the children make Mother's Day cards in the shape of handbags."

Lights, camera, action at Pencoed

SONY UK Technology Centre has formally launched 30,000 sq ft of filming and production space at its site in Pencoed, which will provide dedicated facilities for Welsh TV and film productions.

The area will include production offices, changing rooms, make-up suites and four dedicated loading bays with direct lorry access.

Gerald Kelly, director of professional services for Sony UK TEC explained: "This is an exciting new venture for Sony UK Technology Centre. We hope that the flexible production space will be an asset to the vibrant creative sector in Wales. Working with our onsite incubation centre tenants Dragon Digital, the Ffilm Factory is the perfect go-to facility for all Welsh TV and film productions."

Hazards to health course

BARRY Communities First and Jobcentre Plus are running a free course on working safely with harmful chemicals in the workplace.

A one-day control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) course will be held on March 31, at Jobcentre Plus, Holton Road from 9.30am until 4pm. Priority will be given to residents living in a Barry Communities First area which includes parts of Buttrills, Cadoc, Court, Castleland and Gibbonsdown.

Contact Communities First on 01446 709432, or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @*gem_news*

Title delight for Penarth hockey team!

HAVING secured promotion the previous weekend, Penarth Hockey Club added further lustre to one of the best seasons in its history by clinching two GoCrea8 Hockey League division titles on Saturday.

SWANSEA UNIVERSITY B 0, PENARTH A 3

Despite the senior side also being on the cusp of a divisional crown, the second XI encounter had more riding on it as the side travelled down the M4 looking for a seventh successive victory, and one that would reward the team with the De Cymru 2 title.

With the Swansea University side also already assured of promotion and holding top spot in the table by virtue of marginally better goal difference, it created a 'winner takes all' scenario suitable for the final week of the season.

The Penarth side started sharply, and it wasn't long before the front line of Dave Watkins and Kidby brothers James and David called the opposition keeper into action. Once the University side settled, however, the game proved to be fast flowing and end-to-end, and either team could have taken the lead.

An entertaining first half finished goalless, with Penarth captain Matthew Birch reminding his side that they were only 35 minutes away from claiming the title and pointing out how Swansea looked out of ideas, while his own players still had plenty left in the tank.

With the visitors' only frustration being that they were still on level terms with their hosts, patience was seen as the key to the second half but, ironically, Penarth weren't kept waiting too long for the first goal as James Kidby pounced on the rebound from a well-saved drag flick penalty corner and crashed the ball high into the net, much to the delight of the Penarth dug-out.

The Vale side's celebrations were muted almost immediately when they were reduced to 10 men following a harsh yellow card for a fairly innocuous foul in midfield, but continued to defend magnificently, limiting Swansea to no more than a few half chances.

Indeed, despite being short-handed, the Bears kept up the pressure on the University goal and, once restored to full strength, extended their advantage with James Kidby again on target, this time with a little help from the hapless goalkeeper after strong work by Docherty on the right saw him steal possession from the student attack before beating a couple more players and finding his forward with a pin-point pass.

As expected, Swansea came back strong, throwing everything forward in an attempt to get back into the game but Penarth refused to buckle. Captain Birch and Sam Chick made their entrance as the game restarted and, despite both carrying niggling injuries, helped put the game beyond doubt.

With Swansea leaving gaps at the back, and Penarth now playing two men up high, gaps were beginning to open up, and Birch exploited one of these to find his fellow substitute who, despite being surrounded by three defenders, proceeded to beat them all before smashing a rocket of a shot past the surprised keeper.

The final whistle was greeted to the celebration of the Bears and their travelling support. Man-of-the-match honours went to the entire backline and goalkeeper as, without their bravery and clean tackling, the score could have been a lot closer than 3-0, but the entire squad can look forward to playing at a higher level next season.

CARDIFF & MET A 3, PENARTH 11

The first XI travelled to local rivals Cardiff & Met knowing that anything other than a defeat would be enough to secure the De Cymru & The Marches 1 title, and were in confident mood with a strong squad on hand.

The Bears made a high-tempo start and soon found themselves two goals to the good, with player-coach Ben Croxall opening the scoring after working himself into space to fire home on the reverse side. The goal was followed in quick succession by another strike from Laith El-Khatib, who continued his remarkable run of goals in the second half of the season.

After some harsh umpiring decisions had temporarily reduced Penarth to nine men, Cardiff & Met used their numerical advantage as a springboard to bounce back into the game, pulling a goal back after an initial save from Adam Putt rebounded to an unmarked attacker, who finished on his reverse side.

The home side continued to dominate through the midpoint of the half but, once back to full strength, Penarth were able to reassert their previous dominance and bagged another two goals before the interval - with El-Khatib converting a drag flick before assisting David Joyce at the back post - to put the Vale side in command.

Penarth knew the first goal after the break would put the game to bed, and it didn't take long to come. Minutes after the restart, Richard John brought the ball out of defence before playing a cutting pass to El-Khatib, who duly fired home to complete his hat-trick.

With Cardiff & Met heads starting to drop, Penarth proceeded to run riot as they looked to finish the season in style. Joyce completed his own hat-trick with only three shots to highlight his finishing prowess, before Sam Williamson scored his first goal in three years after pouncing on a loose ball.

It was El-Khatib who made a grab for the headlines, however, as he added a further three goals before the final whistle to cement his position as leading scorer for the season.

Although Cardiff & Met mustered two goals of their own amid Penarth's glut, the final score of 11-3 left the Bears able to celebrate a well-earned title at the end of a successful season.

PENARTH B 2, WHITCHURCH F 7

Penarth Bees closed their season by playing runaway De Cymru 3 champions Whitchurch F on Saturday but, despite the seemingly one-sided scoreline, more than held their own and possibly deserved a closer result than a 7-2 defeat.

Penarth's plans to frustrate their visitors by playing a defensive system with just one man up front was quickly disrupted when Whitchurch scored two early goals, forcing the home side to revert to their usual formation, with midfield maestro David Thomas going on to feature prominently against his old club.

Penarth's endeavours were eventually rewarded when the hard-working Sam Salisbury beat the Whitchurch keeper with a smart finish, and this encouraged the Vale side to continue to press but, while they were being profligate in their finishing, Whitchurch were not and increased their lead to 4-1 by the interval.

The Bees were conscious that, despite facing a side whose style and ability were way above those of other sides at this level, they were very much still in the game. With midfielder Devash Patel and man-of-the-match Tom Griffiths growing in confidence, the sides exchanged goals early in the second period, with Thomas converting for the Bees to make the score 5-2.

Penarth continued to push forward and went close on a number of occasions, not least when skipper Nick Pratt, rolling back the years, saw a brace of bullet-like penalty corners cleared when seemingly destined for the bottom corner.

What could have been 5-4 quickly became 7-2 following some clinical finishing from the excellent Whitchurch forward line, who put the game beyond Penarth's reach despite the heroic efforts of goalkeeper James Erasmus.

The mutual respect between both sides was evident at the final whistle, as Penarth finished third in De Cymru 3, a more than respectable conclusion to their first season back in competition for 10 years.

Skipper Pratt, in his last game leading the Bees before taking the reins of the newly reformed fourth XI next season, was effusive in his praise and thanked all who had played for and supported the team throughout the season.

With the GoCrea8 Hockey League season now complete, immediate attention turns to the remainder of the cup competitions, with both Penarth's first and second XIs in semi-final action at Sophia Gardens this weekend, taking on Cardiff University A and Llandudno A in the Welsh Trophy (2.15pm) and Welsh Challenge (10.15am) respectively.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7.15pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact either player-coach Ben Croxall (b_croxall20@yahoo.co.uk) or club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Local firms show line up for Rotary Dragon Boat regatta

THREE local firms have already signed up to support Barry Rotary Club's Dragon Boat regatta planned for May 28 at Cosmeston Country Park. The event which is believed to be the first of its kind to be held in the Vale, is aiming to raise much needed cash for local charities.

Dragon Boat Racing originated in China over 2,000 years ago and in recent years has become one of the most popular forms of charity event, which allows competitors and spectators to have fun while raising hundreds of thousands of pounds annually for good causes.

Organisers are hoping to attract 10-12 teams to take part in this inaugural fundraiser. The competing teams of 10 rowers sit side by side in a 30-foot long canoe, with a helm to steer and a drummer sitting up high in front, beating out rhythm. The boats are fitted with a colourful dragon's head and are an impressive sight at speed.

The three sponsors who have already signed up are Cosmeston café operators Caterleisure, local hauliers KCS Transport of Aberthaw, and Vale Aggregates based in Barry docks.

Paul Halstead, President of Barry Rotary Club said: "We are really grateful to these sponsors for getting behind us in our bid to present an exciting and fun event which will be great to watch and take part in.

"We want it to develop in the same way that our annual Firework Fiesta on Barry Island has so that it becomes a major date in the Vale's summer calendar".

Helping Barry Rotarians hold the event are professional organisers 'Race the Dragon who assist in dozens of similar fundraisers each year across the UK and include Boyzone's Ronan Keating, Shane Lynch and Keith Duffy and Westlife member Markus Feehily among celebrities who have taken part in their events.

There are several ways in which local people can get involved. Companies can sponsor a boat and provide their own teams with each rower being asked to raise pledges from friends and family of at least £25 which can be shared equally between the team's own and Rotary charities.

Pubs, clubs, charities or just groups of friends or work colleagues can also join in the fun by pledging to raise at least £250 per team.

To find out more about the event, to sponsor a boat, or enter a team, visit www.barrydragonboatfestival.co.uk, or call John Shapland on 01446 760508; email Robin Pitcher at robin.pitcher@talktalk.net.

There's a packed fixture list for Cowbridge RFC!

WITH the Six Nations drawing to a close it's time for Cowbridge to concentrate on the league.

There are still 11 matches to play (half of the league fixtures for the season) stretching well into May.

We start with Canton away this Friday evening, kicking off at 7pm.

There is congestion mid-table with five teams within six points of each other, and while Canton are one point ahead of Cowbridge in sixth place, they have played two more games.

We lost narrowly in November and will be looking for a good win to move up the table.

The following Saturday, March 27, we travel to mid-Wales to face struggling Llandrindod Wells who have won only one fixture all season - contact the club regarding transport for this fixture.

We then face St Albans away, and then have a home game against table-topping Taffs Well - only another seven matches after that, let's hope the weather is kind to us for the next few months!

RV/RK

Last minute Llantwit win

LLANTWIT Major AFC left it very late again to notch up their third Welsh League Division 3 success in a row.

An 88th minute strike by Max Morgan gave the home side the three points against an efficient Bridgend Street side, who themselves are pushing hard for promotion.

The first half was a very even affair without either keeper being asked too many questions.

Chances were rare as both teams' midfield and defensive lines coped comfortably with whatever was thrown at them.

Rob Jones for Llantwit Major was a constant threat in the free role he was given and looked the most threatening for either side.

In the second half Llantwit boss Karl Lewis was forced to make a striker change as Dale Stevenson departed at half-time for Lee Jones.

Further changes were forced as Dan James and John Thomas had to leave the field through injuries.

This forced Karl to play a more attacking formation as Jake Roberts pushed further up the park, while Morgan Lewis plugged the defensive gap admirably.

Lee Jones was involved in an aerial battle around the opposition's penalty spot; the resultant loose ball fell invitingly at Max Morgan feet and he volleyed home with aplomb from around 10 yards out.

Very little time remained and despite their best efforts the visitors could not get close to Jack Landsdown's territory and the three points were kept by the home side

Team: 1 J. Lansdown, 2 J. Thomas (G. Jennings 80), 5 R. Llewelyn(capt), 6 J. Roberts, 3 G. Davies, 4 J. Fletcher, 8 K. Smith, 7 D. James (Morgan Lewis 70), 10 R. Jones, 11 D. Stephenson (L. Jones 45), 9 M. Morgan.

DJ

PUPILS PROVE MATHS IS NO PI IN THE SKY!

Cardiff City players Tom Lawrence (Wales team) and Ben Wilson play Pi-less football with Bryn Hafren for Pi Day Cymru.

ON Monday, pupils at a Barry school served up a slice of match day pie - with a difference - in a bid to discover just how much maths affects our everyday lives!

As Pi Day Cymru swept the nation, the Bryn Hafren pupils kicked off the annual maths celebrations by challenging Cardiff City FC players Tom Lawrence (Wales squad player) and Ben Wilson to a 'Pi-less' match, using giant cube-shaped footballs.

The unusual twist on the game, which also featured goalposts shaped like the pi symbol, gave the students insight into what one of the world's most popular sports would be like if a Welshman hadn't coined and championed pi.

Pi Day Cymru has become a widely-recognised event in the maths calendar, thanks to its deep roots in Welsh history. Wales has a unique claim to the maths phenomenon that started in 1706 when William Jones from Anglesey was the first person to use the Greek letter π, or pi, to represent the mathematical constant which allows us to measure the circumference and area of circles.

Ella Forsyth, a 12-year-old year-8 pupil from Bryn Hafren, said: "I hadn't realised just how much we use Pi every day. It was actually really difficult trying to play football with square balls, and it just shows how different life would be if we didn't have pi!"

Pi Day Cymru has seen people of all ages celebrate uses of maths in everyday life. It was the brainchild of Prof Gareth Fffowc Roberts, Emeritus Professor at Bangor University, who last year received the backing of the Welsh Government to establish the date as an official day of national celebration in Wales.

To find out more about Pi Day Cymru, visit: https://www.facebook.com/beginsathome or follow @edubeginsathome.

MAD MONEY AND STONY ROAD WINNERS!

SUNSHINE greeted the good crowd at Howick for the Curre & Llangibby which saw the opening on the South Wales and Monmouthshire season and nine bookmakers - a lot fewer than in the past - were in attendance.

Racing got under way with the members, subscribers and farmers race which was won by the Vale's Mrs Jeanne Thomas' Stony Road, which beat the pacemaking Sweet Like You by five lengths.

Stony Road, a nine-year-old bay gelding, was partnered by Charlotte, or Charly as she likes to be known, Prichard whose father Ian trains the horse. Charly, who recently celebrated her 20th birthday, as commentator Eddie Williams told his audience, rode a well judged race and scored by five lengths from Sweet Like You in a time of 6 mins 49s compared to the 6 mins 53.7s when winning with the same rider in the saddle last year.

In the eight-year-ods and over PPORA club members race, recent Lydstep winner Books Review tried to make all the running under Mark Robinson and although still in front at the last, was beaten to the post by Real Milan which gave 21-year-old Jack Jones his first winner in only his fifth ride.

A real family horse, trained at Ross-On-Wye by Jack's mother and father, the 11-year-old bay gelding is apparently an "absolute delight"' to train. The Jones' were making a first visit to Howick and no doubt Jack, who is at Reading University, will want to return.

Seven faced the starter for the men's open race but there was only one horse really in it as Rachel Hooton's Desertmore View, despite jumping to the right at times, made every yard of the running to score by eight lengths from Lamboro Lad.

Desertmore View, winner of last year's Dunraven Bowl Hunter Chase at Chepstow, was surprisingly ridden by Matthew Barber.

His usual partner John Mathias was on Highly Unlikely which was unseated. Desertmore View's owner missed seeing her horse win as she runs a care home in west Wales and was on duty.

It will be up to her whether this exciting eight-year-old bay gelding takes his chance in the Aintree Foxhunters' Steeplechase this year.

Ten of the 18 entries lined up for the ladies' open race which was won by William and Angela Rucker's 11-year-old bay gelding Get It On a winner of several races under rules when trained by Evan Williams.

The well-backed Lauberhorn disappointed once again and was never really in the hunt. Get It On won by four lengths from Tiger Rag and was ridden by Sarah Bowen, aged 23, whose father Tim Bowen had won the 1987 Lady Dudley Cup on Pride Of Tullow. Sarah rides out for the Ruckers who are great point-to-pointing stalwarts.

Evan Williams' 18-year-old daughter Isabel, having her first ride in a point-to-point, led the field a merry gallop on the two mile chaser Sublime Talent which eventually tired in the closing stages but completed the course.

Welsh champion John Mathias initiated the first leg of a double when Without The Favourite, an eight-year-old bay gelding by Oscar, made nearly all to win the 15 strong restricted by five lengths from Island Cruise, who was still in with a chance at the second last fence.

WithoutTheFavourite, who lost his maiden tag at the Beaufort a week before, is trained by John's bride-to-be Amber Griffiths and enthusiasts will want to wish them all the best when they tie the knot on August 6.

The open maiden race was divided on the field and Moral Hazard, a seven-year-old brown gelding by Milan, ridden by John Mathias, although finishing tired, had eight lengths to spare over An Cor.

Trainer Beverley Thomas who owns the horse in partnership with Adrian Simpson said: "An old lady could ride him and I only got back into training recently by accident."

Beverley, who is the west Wales area secretary, is a former leading trainer and the last time she saddled a winner was in 2008 but clearly she has not lost her touch.

It is something of a coincidence that one of the two winning owners of the second division was the south Wales area secretary Liz Egerton, who owns the winner Mad Money in partnership with former rider Tudor Harris.

Their win came when the 10-year-old bay Mad Money, partnered by Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft, who was chalking up his eighth winner of the season, made nearly all to score by two-and-a-half lengths from the favourite Tenant Farmer.

Mad Money is trained by Jonathan Tudor at Merthyr Mawr and joint owners Liz and Tudor were enjoying their first success as owners.

BRIAN LEE

ROTARY SIX NATIONS COMPETITION

IN the Rotary Six Nations competition, after four rounds, the following entrants are leading:

Trevor Evans, C. Cooke, Paul Adams, Martha Williams, John Lloyd and Keri Price.

All six have 10 out of 12 predictions correct, and they are closely followed by 24 people who are just one point behind going into the final weekend of the competition.

AL

THE BARRY RFC LOTTERY NUMBERS

THE Mega 4 Lottery numbers this week were 1, 4, 10 and 11 and there are no winners; this week's jackpot will be £1515.

AJ

Reds romp to Cup final!

COWBRIDGE Town Reds faced Llantwit Major for the first time this season when they met in the semi-final of the Vale of Glamorgan under-12 Cup.

Given the magnitude of the game, the teams were treated to a neutral referee which was a new experience for both boys and parents alike.

A beautiful morning in Llantwit saw the Reds kicking off up the slope, but Llantwit mounted the early attacks which were ably dealt with by the Reds defence.

As the half progressed, the Reds started to impose themselves and took the lead inside 10 minutes when Craig Tapsfield finished coolly after being well played in.

This was followed swiftly by the Reds' second goal, scored by Ruben Davies from a clever through-ball from midfield.

Despite the stop-start nature of the game, both teams were trying to play football and, as the half drew to a close, two quality pieces of play from Ruben enabled him to score twice to complete his hat-trick.

However, shortly before half-time, goalkeeper Aron Kempson pulled off a great save, diving at the feet on a Llantwit forward who seemed certain to score. The half-time whistle blew with the Reds leading 4-0.

Llantwit started the second half with a series of attacks but failed to capitalise on their chances.

The Reds then turned the tables as Sam Davies opened his account to make it 5-0.

Llantwit then pulled a goal back before the Reds won a penalty when a shot from Sam was handled in the box by a Llantwit defender.

Unfortunately the crossbar proved to be slightly too low for the resulting penalty kick and the score remained the same!

The Reds' sixth goal came from Akka Guwy whose powerful left-footed shot from the edge of the box gave the Llantwit keeper no chance.

Shortly afterwards, the Reds' final goal came from Harry Treharne after good work by Sam.

However, to their credit, Llantwit fought hard to the end and scored twice in the last few minutes to make the final score 7-3 to the Reds.

This was another good test for the Reds against a competitive Llantwit team and, pleasingly, the entire match-day squad contributed to an impressive team performance.

This fine win sees the Reds progress to face Porthkerry Panthers in the final of the Cup on April 15 at Jenner Park, Barry.

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Collingridge, Ben Cooke, Ruben Davies, Sam Davies, Steffan Evans, Akka Guwy, Rhys Hardman, Will Harris, Aaron Holcombe, Aron Kempson, Toby Mallett, Benji Mulcahy, Craig Tapsfield, Harry Treharne.

SE

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On and Off the Turf with Brian Lee

LLANCARFAN trainer Evan Williams's six-year-old The Gipper ran out a six lengths winner of the Pertemps Network Novices' Hurdle at Chepstow on Saturday.

Ridden by Adam Wedge, the long odds-on favourite finished six lengths ahead of Venitia Williams's Bennys King.

Williams also saddled the second and third in the Tori Global And The Samaritans Handicap Chase won by bottom weighted Sandy Beach with Tornado In Milan (Paul Moloney) which finished second and the top weighted Zarzak (Adam Wedge) which finished third.

Peterston-Super-Ely's Phil Dando saw his Driftwood Haze, finish second to the Rebecca Curtis trained Kit Casey in the Tesm National Hunt Maiden Hurdle and his Rainbow Haze, a course and distance winner, took third place behind Albert D'Olivate in the Ben Crutchley Memorial Handicap hurdle.

The winner was ridden by Pembrokeshire's Sean Bowen, one of the leading riders over the course.

ISABEL'S CLEAR ROUND

When Llancarfan's Isabel Williams the 18-year-old daughter of Evan and Cath Williams rode in her first point-to-point race at the Curre & Llangibby Hunt Steeplechases at Howick, near Chepstow, on Sunday, it was a rather special moment too for myself.

I not only have had the pleasure and privilege of reporting on the many successes of Isabel's father Evan, a former national champion point-to-point rider, and now a leading trainer, but I also reported on the successes of Isabel's grandmother Mary and late grandfather Rhys, and to have been involved in the sport I love for three generations is something that I am proud of as I cannot think of any other horse racing reporter who can claim the same.

Isabel, who has also ridden in a couple of flat races, led her nine rivals a merry gallop in the ladies' open race when riding her mother's 10-year-old Sublime Talent and was still in with a chance five fences from home.

But the 10-year-old bay gelding is more suited to two-mile chases rather than three and tired in the closing stages, finishing down the field.

However, Isabel who did well to complete the course, enjoyed the experience and, no doubt, we will be hearing more from her in the future.

The race was won by William and Angela Rucker's Get It On, a horse which Evan had trained in the past to win several National Hunt races.

Get It On was ridden by Sarah Bowen, aged 23, whose father Tim from Monmouthshire was also a successful amateur rider.

TIM'S MARKET RASEN WINNER

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan landed the three miles chase at Market Rasen on Sunday with his eight-year-old Bucking The Trend, which came home 20 lengths ahead of Ultimatum Du Roy.

Bucking The Trend was partnered by Alan Johns and was returned the 13/8 joint-favourite.

BRIAN LEE

Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results from the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for February 22 are as follows:

First division: Castle Bandits (D Collard 30) 258, SV Gals (C Gaffney 27) 236; Cigar Ladies (A McCarthy 33) 284, Special Angels (L Brigham 28) 238; Baker's Dozen (M Rockott, R Hewitson 27) 268, Space Finders (N Clark, T Snooks 30) 278; Coppers (S Curtis, J Hartnell 33) 335, Allsorts (H Bunting 34) 339; Family and Friends (L Sheppard 27) 248, Bobby's Girls (G Toogood, N Toogood, j Barnett 21) 183; Family Affair (C Thomas 29) 246, Colcot Ladies (S Mowcroft, A Singleton 26) 240; Barry Stars (N Jones 35) 339, Breakaways (C Parfitt 38) 313.

Second division: After Eights (P Mepham, A Jackson 27) 274, Pila Palas (J Griffiths 31) 307; Rhoose Starlights (C Dally, E Davies, G Oliver 25) 247, Cad Con Fillies (D Stringer 33) 275; Little Devils (S Vidler 28) 244, Castaways (D Rogers 28) 267; Vixens (J Pedrick 29) 243, Merry Makers (R Lewis 31) 282; Red Admiral (S Clements 34) 306, Rhoose Ravers (J Bishop 33) 266.

Third division: Friends and Neighbours (C White 28) 244, Rugby Triers (E Nicolaou 27) 266; Fallen Angels (R Phillips, L Chambers 26) 277, Hill Billies (C Whyman 28) 239; La Belles (R Clogg 35) 319, Persuaders (T Danielson 32)_ 292;Westenders (B Goddard, T Lambeth 23 212, SV Ladies (L McGivern 25) 215; Roller Coasters (S Jones, T Saunders 26) 232, Etcetera (C Mackintosh 26) 239; Dolly Mixtures (L Marsh 26) 229, Airways Angels (M Carpenter 26) 231.

Fourth division: Guardian Angels (S Aston 23) 166, Socialites (J Parker 123) 167; Challengers (B Griffiths, D Mallam 27) 237, Liberals (S Allen, S Boyd 25) 156; Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 34) 195, Off The Rails (T Rosser 33) 312; Rebels (A Phillips 27) 224, Uptown Girls (J Cosslett, A Hobbs 24) 184; Odd Bods (M Tew 28) 236, Living On The Spare (J Harvey 29) 261; Nite Outers (L Newman, B Lowrie, J Baker 24) 211, Witches (R Pope 24) 218.

WI darts event is a success!

THE annual Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes darts competition was held in Llanharry Workingmen's Club on February 20, and as usual this was a perfect venue for this event.

There were 14 teams of ladies from across Glamorgan and plenty of others to cheer them on.

The final this year was an exciting and close fought contest between Cwmavon WI and St Athan WI.

St Athan were the victors and congratulations go to them and all the contestants.

Everyone enjoyed the day out, whether playing, supporting or meeting friends from other institutes and no doubt the teams will soon be practicing ready for next year's competition!

MN

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Cowbridge under-10s on tournament victory roll!

COWBRIDGE RFC under-10s played in another tournament and won again. That is now three tournaments entered this year and three wins!

We were finally blessed by some beautiful sunshine and good ground conditions for the rescheduled tournament at St. Peters rugby club in Cardiff.

As with all tournaments, the squad was split into A's and development team. There were two pools of five teams in each and both our teams were drawn in the same pool. Also, we were the only club to enter two teams, so all the development team's matches would be against the A teams from other clubs so it would be a real test.

The A team was first up against a strong Rhwbina squad and got off to a good start, winning 4-0 with tries from Henry Davies, Osian Bruce and Harry New (2).

Rhwbina had a quick turn around and were back on against our development team. This as a very close game, with Joe Funtek opening the scoring, only for Rhwbina to equalise in the last few minutes of the game to draw the match 1-1.

Barry were next to face the A team who were now in their stride, playing a great expansive, fast-paced style of rugby, running out comfortable 8-0 winners, with tries from Jake Davies (2), Osian, George Tuckley, Harry (2), James Lord and Henry Davies.

The development team then played Pontyclun, who proved a little too strong, winning a lot of turnovers at the breakdown, gaining valuable possession, which they converted into tries, winning 3-1, with the consolation try being scored by Joe Davies with a fantastic weaving run from his own half.

As both teams were in the same pool, they not only the support from all the parents for every match, but also the rest of the squad, and the A team didn't like to see their friends losing to Pontylcun and were determined to set the record straight when they were next up against them.

Once again they outclassed the opposition, winning 6-0, with tries from Harry (3), Joe Artensen, Henry Whitehouse and Jake.

Having been beaten by the A team, Barry were not looking forward to playing the development team and they were proved right, as we ran out 4-0 winners with tries from L.Thomas, Paddy Whitestone and Joe Davies (2).

In a fitting final pool match, it was time for our two sides to meet, which is the first time we have played each other in a tournament setting.

The game was a joy to watch and was easily the best match played all day, with both sides turning on the style. In the end, the A team proved just too strong winning 5-0, with tries from Jake (2), Osian (2) and James Collingridge.

The score wasn't a true reflection of the game, however, as the development team pushed their A team counterparts hard, only conceding the final two tries right at the end of the match.

Once the final pool standings had been calculated, in the last games of the day each team would play the team finishing in the same position from the other pool.

The development team narrowly finished in third place on try countback and played the home team from St. Peters in the third-place play-off. They ended the day strongly and won a great game of rugby 2-1, with tries from Joe Funtek and Josh Canning.

The A team, who finished top of their pool, played Kenfig Hill in the final, who had also won all their pool matches.

The boys didn't let the much bigger and more physical Kenfig team get up any speed, with Ioan Phillips and Ned Rees putting in great work in defence.

The quick hands and well-rehearsed moves from the entire team were too much for the opposition and we ran out 4-1 winners, with tries scored by Harry (2), Osian and Joe A.

In total for the day, they scored 27 tries and only conceded a single try. Well done to all the squad.

AL

The Bryntition netballers.

School's netballers show their skills in tournament

SATURDAY, March 5, saw the under-16 Welsh finals of the Anne Smart netball tournament, hosted in Llandrindod Wells.

The tournament saw the top eight school teams in Wales battle it out in an exhibition of exceptional netball.

Bryntirion had a stuttering start against their first opponents Ysgol Bryn Elian (Clwyd County Champions) narrowly losing 7-8 despite excellent shooting from Bryntirion's Meg Webb and Olivia Bournes.

However Bryntirion soon stepped up their game and went on demonstrate first class netball, effortlessly winning their next three games against Ysgol Uwchraad Caerinion (Powys county champions), St Josephs HS (Dyffryn county champions) and Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin (Dyfed county champions).

The tournament went into the afternoon and the standard of netball seemed to be getting better and better.

Their next two games against Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf were always going to be their toughest opponents; although Bryntirion lost they were only one of two teams to get half score against both schools, ending 7-11 and 6-10.

After an analysis of results Bryntirion knew that they had to beat their final opponents Newbridge High School for a chance of finishing in third position. An outstanding performance from all players secured Bryntirion third place and they can now proudly say that they are the third best school team in Wales at under-16 level.

A huge thank you all the parents who made the long journey to mid-Wales and an even bigger congratulations to the players who showed discipline, strength and commitment throughout the tournament.

Pictured above are: (back row left to right) Holly Williams, Olivia Bournes, Maddie Page, Meg Webb, Jodi Jennings; (front row left to right) Rosie Pope, Niamh Phillips, Nyah Solder, Zoe Wilson.

BE

Vale of Glamorgan football league news round-up

IT was another weekend of league and cup action in the Vale of Glamorgan football league this past weekend.

In the big game of the weekend title rivals Wenvoe Arms and Cardiff Airport played out a 2-2 draw, Wenvoe coming back from two goals down at Station Road.

It was league leaders St Athan who benefited the most from that result, as they routed Penarth Town 9-1 to move four points clear at the top of Wenvoe and 10 points ahead of Airport, however Wenvoe have a game in hand and Airport have three in hand for what is proving an exciting title race.

Elsewhere in the Premier Division Masons Moving Group secured a 3-1 win over Island Marine while AFC Rhoose dispatched SP Construction 3-0.

In the First Division the top two teams lost with Glenbrook stunning Sully Sports 4-1, while Tynewydd made it three wins on the bounce since the enforced winter break with a 2-1 victory away at Cogan.

Tynewydd's fine form has moved them up to third and well into the race for promotion.

Meanwhile, Cardiff Airport B got back to winning ways, their 3-1 win over AFC Rhoose B their first league win in six after winning their first seven games.

FC Pumas moved up to seventh with a 2-1 win over bottom side BV.

There were only two fixtures in the Second Division this week.

St Athan B secured a big 6-1 win over rooted Cowbridge B while Barry Athletic B extended their lead at the top of the league with a 4-1 win over Penarth B.

In cup action Barry Albion made it through to the Dockers Cup final at Jenner Park after a dramatic 2-1 extra-time win over Knap FC.

They will play Dockers Reunited, who emerged victorious over Cadoxton Imps 4-2.

In the Supporters Cup Vale United made it to their third final in the VOGAFL in just their second season as they defeated Cadoxton Barry 2-1.

They await the winners of Cogan and Barry Belgrade, the latter booking their place in that semi final with a 2-0 win over Cadoxton Athletic in their rearranged quarter-final.

This week (March 19) sees the Barry Cup semi-finals as well as more league action.

HD

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Tristan Greedy would like to inform all of his customers that due to business expansion they have moved from the Heritage Business Park, Wick Rd, Llantwit Major to their new premises (next door to the Post Office sorting office), Llandow, Vale Business Park - and it's business as normal.

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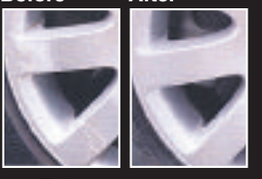

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Athletes face 40 mile marathon at Jenner Park this Sunday

THIS Sunday (March 20) at 10am, 14 endurance athletes from all parts of the UK will set out on the annual journey of 40 miles in Jenner Park.

Forty miles represents almost 161 laps of the track, and anyone even contemplating such a journey will have trained many thousands of miles in preparation.

However, even that distance pales into insignificance when compared to the fact that this race has now been held for 30 years.

Sunday, March 9, 1986, saw local athlete Mick McGeoch winning the inaugural race in 4:11:32 in dramatic circumstances, and Ann Franklin from Cardiff shattering four ladies world records in clocking 4:47:27. 61 world bests have been set during those 30 years, and the race is highly regarded amongst the ultra-running community.

Last year's winner, Grant Jeans from Glasgow, returns in search of a third win, but looks to face a tough challenge from Andrew Tuckey, now resident in Bridgend, but originally from Australia.

Andrew can point to some impressive performances over a variety of surfaces, including ninth place in the Western States 100 miles, and eighth in the 2013 World Trail Championships while competing for Australia.

If either Grant or Andrew should falter, then the ever-consistent Andy Gore from Cheltenham Harriers could spring a surprise.

A last minute entry has been received from Steve Way from Bournemouth AC.

Steve was due to run here last year but sadly injury intervened. In 2014 Steve demolished the UK record for 100km with 6:19:20 at Gravesend, as well as 10th place in the Commonwealth Games Marathon in Glasgow in 2:15:16, thereby setting a new UK M40 record, breaking the mark by Ron Hill which had stood for 35 years.

Although not in that form, this athlete's reputation will inevitably lead to huge interest.

Twelve months ago Isobel Wykes from Truro looked effortless in winning the ladies race, and went on to place eighth in the World 24 hour championships in Italy just five weeks later.

Hopefully Isobel will have made a speedy recovery from recent injury to make a strong bid to defend her title. However, she faces tough opposition from team mate Nicky Taylor, and Cass Chisholm from Birmingham completes an impressive looking trio.

The race also incorporates the Welsh Ultra Championship, and four of the athletes will be competing for the honour of championship medals.

As ever, there are some amazing personal stories to tell, none more so than by the oldest man in the race, 82 year old Geoff Oliver from Hinckley RC, surely the world's fittest octogenarian.

Last year Geoff set new world best marks for 30 miles, 50 kms and six hours duration for the over-80 category - and he'll no doubt be trying to better them.

Indeed, everyone has a fascinating personal tale to tell, and the event is an amazing demonstration of the indomitability of human spirit.

Thanks as always are due to many people, including Gary and Pip Hyatt for refreshments, Jenner Park groundstaff and the local council, and anyone who freely gives their time to come and support. As ever, admission for this amazing occasion is free. **MICK MCGEOCH**

ROETS RETURNS TO SCORPIONS

WELSH international Christiaan Roets, one of the founder players of South Wales Scorpions, has returned to the club after four years at North Wales Crusaders.

The 35-year old centre/second row has been one of Wales' most prolific players over the last seven years and is our country's second highest try scorer of all time with 13 in 21 games.

South African born, Roets came into the professional game just after he won his first full Wales cap. A shining light for Swansea Valley Miners and Bridgend Blue Bulls in the Welsh Conference from 2003-09, he won Wales Dragonhearts caps and also played twice for Celtic Crusaders reserves.

Those performances resulted in him being called up as a fringe player for the full Wales squad in 2009. He made his debut against Serbia, and impressed straight away as he scored a hat-trick of tries in Wales' 88-8 win, before scoring a further try against Scotland in Wales' 28-16 European Cup Final victory.

He has been first choice in the Wales side since then, has only missed two games (both against Italy) and has been involved in two further European trophy wins as well as playing in both the Four Nations and World Cup for Wales.

He signed for South Wales Scorpions a couple of months after his first few caps and starred in the club's first game – a 22-20 win over Workington Town in February 2010 - but after 15 tries in 41 appearances over two years, he took the opportunity to again become a founder member of a Welsh club, this being North Wales Crusaders, helping them to one promotion and two cup final wins in his time there.

Barry to host 'Swimathon'

BARRY Leisure Centre is to host Sainsbury's Swimathon 2016, the world biggest swimming event on March 18-20.

Participants can choose to take on a Swimathon set distance between 1.5k–5k, or set their own SimplySwim challenge and complete their own personal challenge in their own time.

A spokesperson from Legacy Leisure welcomed local residents to get involved as a great opportunity to kick start a new fitness goal and raise money for such fantastic causes: "Even small amounts can make a huge difference. Just £15 could provide an entire year's worth of school lunches for a child in Uganda, and here in the UK, £50 could pay for a disadvantaged young person to go on a sports coaching course, giving them the skills they need to find work.

"Join other swimmers afterwards in our dedicated Meet & Greet area to share your achievements with a warming hot chocolate & flapjack and to receive a goody bag and medal or phone 01446 403000."

Pool times: Barry, Saturday, March 19 (12pm-3pm); Sunday, March 20 (1.30pm-4.30pm).

Penarth, Saturday, March 19 (1pm-4pm); Sunday, March 20 (10pm-1pm).

Llantwit, Saturday, March 19 (2pm-5pm); Sunday, March 20 (10pm-2pm).

For further details, phone Barry Leisure Centre 01446 403000 or enter at Swimathon.org.

Bridge results

RESULTS of the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for the last two weeks:

Monday, February 29, Celtic Sims competition - 1st Tony Ratcliff & Mark Roderick 72.50%, 2nd Julian Pottage & Simon Richards 61.48%, 3rd Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 59.58%.

Monday, March 7 - 1st Ray Smith & Gwynne Maddox 60.51%, 2nd Irene Thomas & Graham Jones 59.94%, 3rd Andrea Waite & June Williams 59.85%.

LE

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for March 8:

1st Mick Green & Mike Close 63.33%; 2nd Simon & Debbie Richards 61.25%; 3rd Dave Thomas & Tom Kendrick 55.83%. Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

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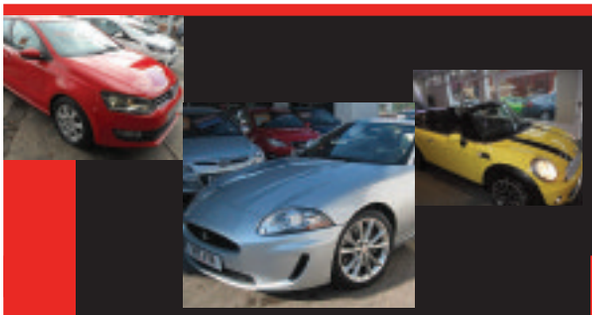

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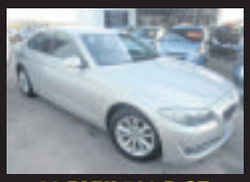

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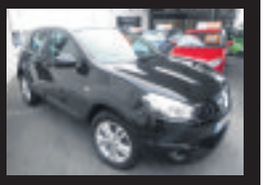

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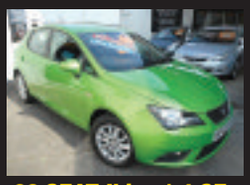

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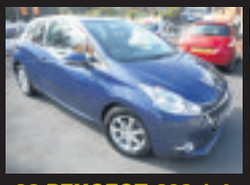

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West Park success in netball finals

West Park were thrilled to be crowned winners of the Bridgend County Primary Schools netball final.

WEST Park Primary School thrived under pressure at the recent Bridgend County Borough Primary School netball finals, where they were crowned overall winners and marked their spot at the next round.

West Park were closely followed by runners-up Caerau Primary School, and both schools will now have the chance to compete in the Glamorgan Valleys netball finals against schools from Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Year-5 and 6 children from primary schools across the county borough gathered for the Bridgend final at Maesteg Sport Centre after getting through cluster tournaments which took place at Bryntirion and Cynffig Comprehensive Schools, Maesteg Sports Centre and Garw Valley Life Centre.

The eight finalist schools taking part in the Bridgend County round were Tremains, West Park, Caerau, Nantymoel, Blaengarw, Pencoed, Pil and Cwmfelin.

Caerau Primary learning support officer, Catherine Nicholls said: "Netball is a very popular activity with both boys and girls in Caerau Primary. Children in year-3 through to year-6 are always enthusiastic to get involved, and it's great to see them enjoying the sport so much.

Runners-up Caerau Primary with learning support officer Catherine Nicholls.

"The team we brought to the Bridgend finals are ecstatic to be runners up and excited to be attending the next round."

Bridgend County Borough Council's deputy leader, Coun Huw David, said: "I am happy to hear that both the cluster tournament and the Bridgend final went very well and I would like to say well done to all the teams who took part in these matches. I'd also like to thank Maesteg Netball Club for supporting the event and providing umpires for the games.

"I wish West Park and Caerau Primary schools the very best as they go on to compete at the Glamorgan final, representing Bridgend County Borough. It's fantastic to see so many young boys and girls playing and enjoying netball with their peers."

To find out more about local netball clubs please visit www.welshnetball.co.uk or call 02920 334952. For more details on sporting opportunities within schools contact the council's AYPD on 01656 815224 or email aypd@bridgend.gov.uk.

Friday night lights for the Kenfig Seconds

KENFIG HILL seconds entertained Dunvant seconds under the floodlights in a Friday night game at Croft Goch.

Kenfig Hill fielded a mixed seconds/youth side and Dunvant also travelled with a strong squad as they had not played for five weeks.

Kenfig Hill started strongly in the set piece with team manager Gareth Russell controlling the lineouts, and it was Russell who forced his way over from a driving lineout for the first score.

Kenfig Hill continued to exert pressure on Dunvant and Connor O'Connell went over under the posts after a mix up in the Dunvant 22 to put pressure on current leading try scorer Dan Dryden, who should be back playing by the end of the month.

With ball in hand Dunvant had some promising attacks but final pass didn't go to hands and the half-time score remained at 14-0.

Kenfig Hill made several changes throughout the game and it was Lloyd Smith who went over for a fine score after a flowing passing move.

Kenfig Hill looked like they were going to run away with the game early in the second half as scrum half Matthew Tossell chased his own kick through to score under the posts.

However, Dunvant kept attacking and scored from a succession of rucks near the Kenfig Hill line.

The final 10 minutes saw Dunvant camped in the Kenfig Hill 22 and they scored with the final move of the game to make the final score 31-12 to Kenfig Hill.

With the weather finally starting to settle down both sides enjoyed a Friday night game under the lights while Six Nations matches are still disrupting regular Saturday fixtures.

DHD

Cool and calm Penybont are too much for Llangeinor!

A cool, calm and collective performance from Penybont under-18s proved to be too much for Llangeinor to compete with.

Penybont continued in their relentless run of form and are now unbeaten in 12 matches in all competitions.

Penybont played some scintillating football in the first 10 minutes of the match but the only thing missing was a goal.

The missing ingredient soon arrived in the 13th minute of the match after a typical striker's finish from Jac Lewis, who put Penybont in front after some good build-up play by midfielders Ashleigh Jones and Connor James.

Jac Lewis then doubled Penybont's lead in the 31st minute of the match after guiding the ball into the right of the goal. The assist once again came from midfield dynamite Ashleigh Jones.

On the stroke of halftime, the goals kept flowing for Jac Lewis and Penybont.

The midfield partnership of Oliver Waagenes and Ashleigh Jones combined well to allow Morgan Ley to cross in for the clinical Jac Lewis to complete a first half hat trick and to give Penybont a 3-0 halftime lead.

Penybont scored their first second half goal of the match in the 60th minute of the game after Connor James' effort from the edge of the box proved to be too good for the Llangeinor goalkeeper to stop.

Minutes later, Llangeinor scored a consolation goal after the Penybont defence was caught with a lack of numbers. This was a reward for Llangeinor for not giving up.

Connor James soon restored Penybont's four goal buffer after netting his ninth goal in eight matches which gives him a goal ratio of better than one a game.

Goals six and seven for Penybont were of the highest order and you will struggle to find a game with a better two goals in.

The first came from Oliver Waagenes, who couldn't have caught the ball better to smash it into the left of the goal.

Ashleigh Jones then scored an equally good goal from the best part of 35 yards to give Penybont a 7-1 lead.

With six minutes remaining there was still time for an eighth goal which came courtesy of Alex Vidler who has now scored in consecutive matches, the assist once again coming from Ashleigh Jones.

Overall, another superb display which can't be faulted!

TOM PROSSER

News from the Bridgend Bridge Club

MARJORIE Morris was awarded life membership of the club by president Bill Turner last Friday evening.

Marjorie has just stepped down from the club committee following many years service as a club officer and committee membership.

She has worked tirelessly to serve the club, and her life membership is richly deserved.

The club extends its grateful thanks to Marjorie, and wishes her many more years of enjoyable bridge.

The results for recent events are: Wednesday, March 9: 1st John Beard and Liam Sheridan, 2nd. Graham Norris and Dave Lea, 3rd Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes. Winners on handicap Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes.

Thursday, March 10: North/South - 1st Mike Williams and John Henson, 2nd Mari Jones and David Newman, 3rd Rosalie Clode and Irene Williams. East/West - 1st Dilys Bowser and V Irene Williams, 2nd Stuart Davies and Paul Lyne, 3rd Diane Reynolds and Leila O'Hagan. Winners on handicap Mike Williams and John Henson, and Dilys Bowser and V Irene Williams.

Friday, March 11: North/South - 1st Simon and Debbie Richards, 2nd Emer Disley and Dave Lea, 3rd Linda Pinnock and Ann Fox. East/West - 1st Marjorie Morris and Wendy Williams, 2nd Dave Reed and Jim Hume, 3rd John Henson and Terry Dolan. Winners on handicap Simon and Debbie Richards, and Dave Reed and Jim Hume.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall.

Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early. On Thursday afternoons 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session.

TG

Paul gets Team GB call-up

THE British Paralympic Association (BPA) have announced that Paul Davies of Bridgend will be among those to represent ParalympicsGB at the Rio 2016 Games, as they confirmed the athletes selected to compete in one of the most fast-paced sports on the programme.

Paul, from North Cornelly, won bronze in the table tennis men's class 1 singles at London 2012.

The following year he took silver in the European Championships, losing in the final to his great friend and teammate Rob Davies, and then combined with his fellow Welshman to take gold in the team event.

After missing two years of competition due to injury he is back in training and fully focused on Rio.

He said: "It means the world to me to be selected and compete for ParalympicsGB after a long injury out, but this has made me even more determined to achieve higher results.

"London 2012 was massive for me as I won a bronze medal in the singles. Experiencing the support around me was fantastic, that experience from London 2012 gives me more focus to be ready for Rio."

Penny Briscoe MBE, ParalympicsGB Chef de Mission for Rio 2016, said: "These talented players have put a huge amount of hard graft in to earn their selection, and I'm delighted to announce that they're now part of the ParalympicsGB team for Rio."

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

Picking up the pieces after the Twickenham no-show

Wales **3** England **1** – *tries that is* – but where was the fire-breathing Dragon?

Pictures by the Huw Evans Agency.

ABOVE: In-form George North rounds off a wonderful Welsh move that showed just what the team is capable of when given its head. TOP, centre: the outstanding Taulupe Faletau crashes over for a well-deserved try.

WALES NEED TO BRING THAT LAST 20 MINUTES TO THE HEAD OF THE QUEUE!

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

IN the aftershock of a Twickenham defeat that was far more conclusive than the narrowness of the 25-21 result would suggest, the stunned Welsh camp has had little time to recover its lost pride – and at least end a disappointing Six Nations campaign on a more positive note against lowly Italy in Cardiff on Saturday.

After a bafflingly-listless first half display that, sadly, has become all too common as the Achilles heel of a hugely-talented group of players prone to sleep walking out of the blocks, and then forced to live dangerously and play catch-up rugby as time runs out (as happened again on Saturday), it was hardly surprising that a far more urgent and committed home side took full advantage.

That in a transformed last quarter, a long overdue injection of energy from the replacements bench saw Welsh players suddenly cast off their shackles and, amazingly, run in two converted tries in the space of five minutes, to add to an earlier touchdown and get within four points of victory at the death – was scant consolation, as England took the spoils for their 25th Triple Crown – the first under their new regime.

Even more concerning was Wales' head coach Warren Gatland's typically frank post-match admission that he was flummoxed by his team's strangely inept first half performance.

"It was unacceptable… but I don't know what the answer is", he said tight-lipped… "We were terrible. We just didn't turn up (for an hour). We have got to be honest and say – where was the energy? We looked tired and were not enthusiastic enough," he added somewhat surprisingly – given that the players had just spent two weeks together in camp preparing for the game.

Both the team and coaching staff would need to look at themselves, to see what had gone wrong, he said, though he intimated the fault primarily lay with players who had failed to implement the game plan correctly.

In fact, such was the Kiwi's displeasure that he had even toyed with making changes after just 25 sluggish minutes in an error-ridden first half that was marked by a rash of missed tackles (Wales would record a staggering 25 before the end), dropped passes, sloppy field kicking, and indiscipline, punished by three Owen Farrell penalties and conversion of an Anthony Watson try which gave England a commanding 16-0 lead at halftime.

When, four minutes after the restart, Farrell added a fourth penalty to make the score 19-0, a misfiring Wales, whose struggles in both the tight and loose were exacerbated by a suddenly malfunctioning lineout, were staring an unexpected defeat of epic proportions in the face.

They were given a glimmer of hope when Ospreys outside half Dan Biggar, charged down an attempted clearance by his opposite number George Ford and touched down under the posts for a try he converted himself. Wales had closed the gap to 19-7 which coincided with the departure of injured skipper Sam Warburton.

As pressure on the embattled Welsh defence was renewed, the men in white took what seemed an unassailable lead with two more well-struck penalties by Farrell to make the score 25-7, moving into the final quarter, when Gatland played his last hand with fresh legs from the substitutes' bench.

Suddenly, the men in red were transformed, shook off their lethargy and the shackles that had bound them, and finally upped the tempo, aided by a yellow card given to England prop Dan Cole just after the 70-minute mark.

Sustained assaults had a suddenly back-pedalling England defence at sixes and sevens, yielding two very well-worked tries, by George North and Taulupe Faletau in the space of four minutes.

Both were converted by outside half Rhys Priestland who, with fellow replacements Rhys Webb and hooker Ken Owens, had sparked the belated revival that incredibly brought Wales to within four points at 25-21 with just two minutes left to the final whistle.

With England now desperately clinging on to avoid a repeat of the drama last autumn, when an outplayed Wales sneaked the honours in the dying minutes of their Rugby World Cup pool game at Twickenham, there was still time for one final twist when North was controversially deemed to have had a foot in touch before passing to Webb, who could have continued the attack.

In the end, even though Wales scored three tries to England's one, the camp admitted it was, "*too little, too late*". Few would begrudge the 'old enemy' a deserved victory that now sets up new coach Eddie Jones to match Gatland's achievement in winning a Grand Slam at his first attempt.

Only sorry France, demolished 29-18 by Scotland, now stand in their way in Paris this weekend.

Meanwhile, Gatland will pick up the pieces and aim to prove that the first hour at Twickenham was an aberration. He hinted though at changes to come for the final game against Italy, who were crushed 58-15 by Ireland on Saturday.

The question is, will Wales' poor showing signal a renewed emphasis on the tried and tested structured approach that has brought such success – or will that final exhilarating 20 minutes underline that there is another, heads-up variation – one which produces scintillating tries that have been in such short supply of late?

A dynamic Wales under-20s team, playing at high tempo, pointed the way forward when running in six tries to blow away their English counterparts 42-16 at the weekend and set themselves up for a Grand Slam title that has eluded the seniors.

When Eddie Jones suddenly ended his self-imposed press purdah, he had insisted there were "*no hang ups*" in the England camp over last autumn's traumatic loss to Wales that prematurely ended the host nation's Rugby World Cup at the pool stage, and got his predecessor the sack.

Nor had the record 30-3 defeat in Cardiff in 2013, which robbed England of a Grand Slam, left any "*lasting scars*".

However, skipper, Dylan Hartley, admitted: "*I'm sure there will be individuals who will have something going on here (tapping his head) and thinking... I'm not going to let that happen again*"… But then he added, "*As a team, we are not going to; that ain't happening again…*"

No-one can deny that they proved the point on Saturday – but it was still a close-run thing!

The already battered Italians could now be in for a severe Gatland backlash from an under-fire team captained by Dan Lydiate – minus the injured Alun Wyn Jones and skipper Sam Warburton – with Luke Charteris, Rhys Webb, Hallam Amos and Justin Tipuric drafted in to provide more fizz.

WALES TEAM

Liam Williams; Hallam Amos, Jonathan Davies, Jamie Roberts, George North; Dan Biggar, Rhys Webb; Rob Evans, Scott Baldwin, Samson Lee, Bradley Davies, Luke Charteris, Dan Lydiate (capt), Justin Tipuric, Taulupe Faletau. Replacements: Ken Owens, Gethin Jenkins, Aaron Jarvis, Jake Ball, Ross Moriarty, Gareth Davies, Rhys Priestland, Gareth Anscombe.

ABOVE: Dan Biggar caps an individual effort after charging down George Ford's kick with a try that began the Wales fight-back.

STATE OF THE SIX NATIONS

I REFER to the Back Page Comment (on March 3) by Don John – an excellent article which comprehensively accounts for the current state of our Six Nations, and our results at the recent World Cup.

The best Six Nations in recent times has been the 2015 tournament. Results were so close on the final day that it was all about scoring points.

Leaking a few tries wasn't as important as scoring as many as possible at the other end.

What a spectacle it was!

DAVID JONES

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